**Battleground strategy for condoms** Stop AIDS Project uses humor in new 'Dept. of Homoland Security' campaign.

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Milk's legacy lives Gays and lesbians are out in local government. see second section



Armistead & Marga Maupin & Gomez, Pride celebrity Grand Marshals. see Arts section



Vol. 33 · No. 26 · 26 June 2003

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# World's first gay men's

by Joe Dignan

Monday, November 27, 1978, the day that Dan White that Dan White shot San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone in their City Hall offices, the fledgling Gay Men's Chorus had scheduled a rehearsal at Everett Middle School on Church Street. Founder Jon Sims had started rehearsals for the group a few weeks before, but its members hadn't yet performed in public. When they met at

When they met at the school, recalled the choir's first director, Dick Kramer, who himself had not yet been hired, Sims had already decided to take the group to City Hall to be with the mourners

who had gathered there.

The chorus quickly ran through a Mendelssohn hymn. "It was the only song we knew," Kramer recalled, and at about 8:30



p.m., the chorus filed out of the school to join the throng filing Market Street, moving from the Castro to a hastily organized vigil on the plaza in front of City Hall.

"I don't remember who," Kramer said, "but someone was handing out candles."

"In contrast to the White Night riots several months later, that candlelight march,"

said historian Paul Gabriel, "was a non-violent reaction to the killings. They walked in silence car-rying those candles." By the time it reached the plaza the crowd numbered about 4,000, Kramer estimated.

about 4,000, Kramer estimated.

After it had gathered on the City Hall steps, the chorus was introduced by acting Mayor Dianne Feintein who had exite. stein, who had, earlier that day, discovered the body of San Francisco's first openly gay supervi-sor in his office where he had been shot.

She had been sworn in as mayor just a few

She had been sworn in as mayor just a few hours before.

"From the top of City Hall steps you can look out across that entire plaza and across the street," said one of the chorus' original members, Robert Emery. "What I remember most was the sea of candles."

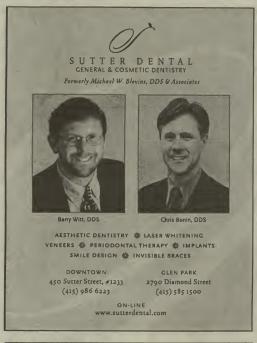
"Outrage, that's the thing I felt most

strongly," said Kramer, who sang in the con-cert, "that our elected gay supervisor had been taken." Outrage, Kramer said, that White had subverted the will of the people. Sims hired Kramer a few weeks later to

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# Dykes seize the day on June 28

by Zak Szymanski

ntil you've been to a San Francisco Dyke March, you haven't really seen a Dyke March. Tens of thousands of women and trannies will take the streets and close down blocks of the city on Saturday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m., to demand social justice, women's rights, freedom of tree, women's rights, freedom of expression, and an end to war, and to celebrate dykedom, in all ways imaginable. Expect plenty of par-tial to full nudity, outrageous signs and stickers, public displays of affection, and gangs of women representing the earliest activist days and latest trends.

and latest trends.

This year is the 11th annual Dyke March, with a theme of, not surprisingly, "Dykes Oppose War." As is tradition, the event kicks off with a rally and festival in Dolores Park, which begins at 5 p.m.

Practically the only corporate-free event during Pride Month, the Dyke March is fierce, political, sexy, and illegal: it is always held without a marching permit, although organizers usually work out an agreement with police.

"We fight for dignity, for

"We fight for dignity, for human rights, for our children, for sisterhood, for self-defense, for equality, for justice, for our lives, for all women," said organizers.

As is policy, no men are al-

lowed to participate in the Dyke

March. Mén are encouraged, how-ever, to cheer marchets from the sidelines, and every year hundreds show up to do just that. It is up to Dyke March participants to define their own gender, whether as a bi-ological or trans woman, an FTM calcharation the woman in himself celebrating the woman in himself for that day, or as a genderless queer choosing the female side of the fence.

The park - located at 19th and Dolores streets – begins to bustle with activity in the late afternoon. Performers and activists will take to the stage to inspire and warm up the crowd. Vendors tradition-ally sell Dyke March T-shirts, crafts, stickers, and food at the park, and several private parties usually take place within walking

distance.

After 7 p.m., the crowd will fil-ter into the streets, and members of the Women's Motorcycle Con-tingent – the hottest seat during Pride weekend marches – will start their engines. The march winds through the Mission and Dolores Park areas, ending up in the Castro for an all-night street party.

tro for an all-night street party.
Other dyke-related events take place on Saturday; the Women's Motorcycle Contingent, for instance, is marking its 25th anniversary this year, and dykes are invited to Zeitgeist, at Valencia and Duboce, from 1-5 p.m. to celebrate. There is even the possibility, said bikers, that those hoping

to score a ride for the march will get lucky.

get lucky.

If hanging out in the street amidst proud and erotic chaos isn't your thing, you can find the same energy indoors, at the "In Bed With Fairy Butch" party, at Club Galia, Mission and 22nd streets. The event is after the Dyke March, at 9 p.m., and is open to women and transgenders and their friends. Visit www.fairy-butch.com for more information. Other after-parties include the

Other after-parties include the Queer Girlz Dance at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market

Street, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The first Dyke March took
place during the 1993 March on
Washington, in Washington, D.C., when dyke activists from New York and San Francisco, fed up by the lack of female visibility in mainstream gay organizing, put out an impromptu call for women participants to take the streets. A few hundred women were

'Instead, over 20,000 outrageous dykes showed up: black, white, and Latina, young, old, bare chested, fully clothed – 20,000 fierce dykes demanding recogni-tion, visibility, human rights and

liberation," recalled organizers.

The rest, as they say, is herstory. ▼

Visit www.dykemarch.org for more information.

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# **Pride's ReUnion** party returns home

by Matthew S. Bajko

he annual official circuit party of Pride is leaving the Civic Center area this year to return to the venue in South of Market where the party started five years ago.

After leaving City Hall for the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium last year, ReUnion will take place in yeat, Rechion win take place in the Galleria at the SF Design Cen-ter, 2 Henry Adams Street. The dance party was first launched at the Galleria space in 1998 and fea-tured DJ Warren Gluck as well as a

thred D) warren Gluck as well as a flying saucer theme.

This year's official Saturday night party for Pride will feature international DJ Paul Goodyear and performances by Ceevox, Kitty Meow, and Aubery.

The party's theme is "Celebrating

Community" and will raise funds for the Noble Beast Foundation. Beneficiaries of this year's event include the Asian and Pacific Islander

Wellness Center, Maitri, and Dolores Street Community Services.

Don Spradlin founded the Noble Beast Foundation in late 1997 after first creating the HellBall Halloween celebration a year earlier. According to an account posted to the organization's Web site, the name "Noble Beast" stems from a name Noble Beast stems from a group of gay men who threw private parties in the early 1980s and called themselves Noble Beasts. Their events were wildly popular and grew into small warehouse dances when, evidently, most of the leaders of the group died of AIDS.

Spradlin registered the name with the city in 1997 and found a 1988 DBA under Noble Beast registered to Peter Butler. No other

information has since been found except a button donated to the Noble Beast archives by former San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, who now represents the city in the state Assembly. The button depicted a dog's head, which is now the logo for the organization. In 1999, Spradlin and Noble Beast Productions launched the first-

Beast Productions launched the firstever gay Pride dance in San Francisco's restored City Hall. The city's landmark building played host to the event through 2001 until the event moved to the nearby civic auditorium last year in order to keep the party going until late in the morning. (City rules required the party towrap up at 2 a.m. in City Hall, forcing revelers to move to an afterhours party held at another site.)

This year's event will take place from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday June 28. Tickets cost \$50. ▼

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# New gay health center plans July opening

by Matthew S. Bajko

new era in gay men's health is about to swing its doors wide open in the heart of

wide open in the heart of the Castro.

Next month the long-awaited gay men's health center, christened Magnet, will turn on the lights not only to its building but also to a new way of thinking about how to care for men who work, play, and live in the city's gay naighbox. live in the city's gay neighbor-

hood.
City Clinic it's not.
"We are not just about sexually transmitted diseases," promises
Magnet director Steve Gibson. "We are not just a clinic. We are calling it the anti-clinic."

Magnet stems out of a chal-

lenge grant the city was awarded by DuPont Pharmaceuticals, now part of the Bristol-Myers Squibb company. No federal funding is involved, so the center is not re-stricted in what it can do or say

about sex.
"It is wonderful to say the word 'fuck," joked Magnet's community organizer Kevin Roe.

As America celebrates its birth-

day on July 4, so to will Magnet. In a sign of how the center is going for a light-hearted and jovial atmosphere, free cake in the shape of an ass and cock will be served

that evening.
While Magnet will offer what
Gibson calls a "menu" of integrat-



Magnet's Steve Gibson

ed health services, that is only part of its mission. Along with STD and HIV testing, the project in-tends to focus on everything from self esteem issues, depression, and anything else complicating gay may's living.

men's lives.

"People wanted a place where they didn't have to go to City Clinic, wait two hours, and be lectured to about their risky behavior. That wasn't going to work," said Gib-

son.
The project will also aim to be

a catalyst for rejuvenating a sense of community among gay men. To that extent, Magnet will be hosting events where the point isn't to browbeat men with safe sex messages. The goal will be to just have fun.

is a "Day at the Races" in Collingwood Park where bartenders in heels, boys in red wagons, and teams in "The Amazing Gay Race" will compete.

"It has nothing directly to "

"It has nothing directly to do with health but it does have some-thing to do with sustaining com-munity health in the Castro," said

Roe. Roe, who joked he will be working on the "fun" side of the building, already has plans to do building, aiready has plans to do book readings, community fo-rums, and educational workshops in Magnet's lounge area. "We are building a creative sphere to build the talents you like to do when not in bed," he said. The community is invited to

The community is invited to stop by the new center in the for-mer Statlander's Pharmacy on 18th Street across from Badlands for its official opening party Fri-day, July 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 5, from noon to 6

p.m.
Its first day of operation will be Wednesday, July 9 when its doors open at 3 p.m.
Next week, the *Bay Area Reporter* will take a closer look at the services and programs Magnet plans to offer. ▼



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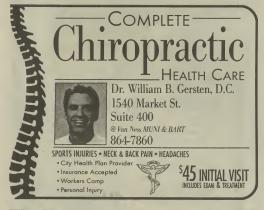
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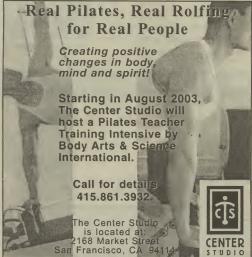
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# **Chrissy Gephardt** stumps for her dad

by Cynthia Laird

hrissy Gephardt, the out

hrissy Gephardt, the out lesbian daughter of Democratic presidential candidate Representative Richard Gephardt (D-Missouri), was in San Francisco last week, stumping for her father and visiting local AIDS agencies and gay officials.

Her visit began Wednesday, June 18 with a breakfast meeting with gay politicos, and was followed by a visit to Project Open Hand and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center. At Project Open Hand, Gephardt was given a tour of the kitchen by Executive Director Tom Nolan and met with some of the agency's volunteers. agency's volunteers.

"That place was amazing," Gephardt said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles last Thurs-day, June 19. "I'm a social worker, so I have a lot of respect and ap-preciation for what they do." Indeed, Gephardt, 30, was until

recently a counselor at Communi-ty Connections in Washington, D.C. She resigned her job earlier this year to campaign full time for her father. Gephardt has been the subject of recent stories in the subject of recent stories in the media, detailing her coming out, her family's acceptance of her and her partner, and her decision to jump on board the Gephardt presidential campaign. Gephardt had been married. Two years ago she and her husband got a divorce and she got together with her and she got together with her partner, Amy Loder. Loder did not accompany Gephardt on her re-cent visit to California.

"Being on the stump has been a lot of fun so far," Gephardt told the Bay Area Reporter, "but I've been to gay-friendly places like California and New York."

Gephardt said that while De-mocratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, the former gover-nor of Vermont, has been em-



Project Open Hand volunteers Joy Jaillon, left, and Andre Zervan, right, show Chrissy Gephardt, center, how it's done in the organization's kitchen. Executive Director Tom Nolan, second from left, guided Gephardt around during her June 18 visit.

braced by many in the LGBT community, her father is just as gay-friendly.

"First of all, I think my dad"

would make the best president," she said, "based on his character and his values. He has been in Congress for 27 years. He has the potential to win.

potential to win.
"In terms of gay and lesbian issues, I think the perception that Dean is the gay-friendly candidate is just not the case. Dean and my father have identical positions, she said.

she said.

She acknowledged that Dean signed Vermont's civil union law, which provides all the state benefits of heterosexual marriage to same-sex couples.

"My dad's at the federal level, and it's a lot harder to do things. It's not that he's not for these things," she said. "Another reason I'm here [in California] is to dispel myths. My dad's just as gayfriendly."

Richard Gephardt and Dean both oppose gay marriage, though

both oppose gay marriage, though

Chrissy Gephardt said that she and her father "agree to disagree" on that issue as she fully supports gay marriage. At the time of Gephardt's interview, she said she had not had a chance to speak with her father regarding last week's decision by the Canadian government to legalize same-sex

marriage.
Regarding gays in the military,
Gephardt said that her father has

Gephardt said that her father has changed his position and is for lifting the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that prohibits gays from serving openly in the military.

"A long time ago, he supported DADT. I guess he feels it hasn't worked and made it worse and he wants to change that," she said.

Gephardt is confident that her father can defeat President Bush.

"I really believe my dad has the ability to carry the Midwest. My dad is really coming out with bold ideas," she said, referring to Richard Gephardt's healthcare plan, energy plan, and education proposals.

proposals.
Project Open Hand's Nolan told the B.A.R. that his agency was "delighted" to host Gephardt on her recent visit.
"Che's dains the right thing.

"She's doing the right thing, telling people what kind of person her father is," Nolan said. "Every-

one here was very impressed."

Unlike Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney who has not publicly commented on anything since her father was nominated to be Bush's supplier was no minated to be Bush's supplier was no minated to be Bush's father was nominated to be Bush's running mate in 2000, Gephardt is taking her story to the people. This weekend, she plans to be in St. Louis, Missouri for that city's gay Pride events. And while her fagay indecember. And when the ra-ther won't be there, Gephardt said it's been important for Americans – gay and straight – to know her story. ▼



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# Giving us hope

he late Harvey Milk – San Francisco's first openly gay elected supervisor – knew in the 1970s what still holds true years after his assassination: that out gay and lesbian people need to be elected to public office. A quarter century later, Milk's keen observation has become a reality, as out gays and lesbians have been elected to public office across the country. Some, like Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin, and Jim Kolbe, serve rrank, tammy Batowin, and Jim Kolbe, serve in Congress. Locally, we have gay and lesbian judges, state legislators, political party offi-cials, school board members, tax board mem-bers, and city and county officials. During this 33rd annual lesbian, gay, bi-

sexual, transgender Pride season, many politicos will march in our parade, gay and straight. We certainly have to acknowledge straignt. We certainly have to acknowledge the help and strong support that straight al-lies have given us over the years. But the fight for true equality for us can only hap-pen when officials who are like us – out and proud – actively work in government to change existing laws that prohibit equality, and help to create new laws that tear down the wall of homophobia and hate that many still use to "keep us in line," relegating us to

sun use to keep is firme, telegating us to second-class status in a country that was founded on liberty and justice for all. That's why, for example, Mark Leno and John Laird's election last year to the state As-sembly was so crucial. It took years (Milk ran unsuccessfully for the Assembly in 1976) for an out, gay man to be elected; and then, in 2002, the community struck it rich with two candidates being elected at the same time. Lesbians had a slightly easier time, as several have been elected to that body and one of them, Sheila Kuehl, has moved on to the state Senate. While the Leg-islature is dominated by Democrats, not all of them are supportive, as is evidenced by the razor-thin vote margins on LGBT legis-lation. We got the bare minimum of votes needed to pass AB205 out of the Assembly. Getting a gay rights bill passed by the Legis-lature and signed by the governor always seems to be a major effort. It shouldn't be.

In Milk's speech at the 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, he implored the audience to fight back against homophobia:

I want to recruit you for the fight to preserve your democracy from the John Briggs and the Anita Bryants who are trying

to constitutionalize bigotry. We are not going to allow that to happen. We are not going to sit back in silence as 300,000 of our gay brothers and sisters did in Nazi Germany. We are not going to allow our rights to be taken away and then march with bowed heads into the gas chambers. On this anniversary of Stonewall I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commit-ment to fight. For themselves. For their freedom. For their country." Years ago, Milk blasted antigay

sears ago, func blasted annualy smear campaligns that many waged against gays and lesbians seeking office. In 2003, the homophobia still exists for some politicos, but it is often more subtle.

The religious right has long been a thorn in the side of the LGBT community. Milk realized that fact when he tackled the homophobic Briggs initiative in the 1970s that would have **Editorial** 

barred gays and lesbians from being teachers. Milk railed against the silence that he felt existed on the part of educators and psychologists who would not speak out about the lies then-state Senator John Briggs told in order to sell his ballot measure, which

was defeated thanks to efforts of Milk and numerous others involved in the campaign. But mostly, Milk wanted gays and les-bians to come out.

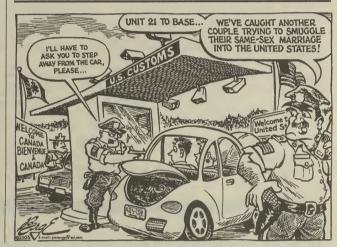
'Gay brothers and sisters, what are you

"Gay brothers and sisters, what are you going to do about it? You must come out. Come out... to your parents ... I know that it is hard and will hurt them but think about how they will hurt you in the woting booth," Milk said during the speech, referring to the Briggs ballot measure."... Come out to your friends if indeed they are your friends. Come out to your mighbors. to your fields. In indeed they are your friends. Come out to your neighbors ... to your fellow workers ... to the people who work where you eat and shop ... come out only to the people you know, and who know you. Not to

anyone else. But once and for all break down the myths, destroy

the lies and distortions. Twenty-five years later, coming out is often easier for many as the myths have begun to be shattered.

Milk believed that once people in straight America got to know us and real-ized that we are a lot like them, the tide of homophobia would change. This principle is still true today. ▼



# This Pride's for you!

by Joey Cain

ver the last few years the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee has moved in some new directions aimed at inmoved in some new directions aimed at in-creasing community participation in the creation of the event. It was not uncommon for some other Pride organizers to see the community as the "enemy" that gets in the way of their planning and organizing. At SF Pride we are committed to operating with a bottom line of community inclusion and transparency. We have instituted the public nomination and election of the community and organization grand marshals and the "Pink Brick" recipient. This year saw the cre-ation of the "Pride Idol" contest which gives the public a chance to pick a local entertainer for the main stage. We've held public forms on issues before the board of directors such as the Pride on the 4th proposal, women's safety at the event, and whether to take a stand against the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Our board and staff continually look for new ways of increasing community input into the direction and planning of the event. The Pride Committee has been working

The Pride Committee has been working diligently to bring in communities that have been un- or underrepresented. It's not enough to say you are open to diversity, you have to go out to those communities and not wait for them to come knocking on your door. Our "Community Rap" program this year held meetings with movers and shakers in the Latino, leather, senior, transgender African American. Asjan Pacific Isgender, African American, Asian Pacific Islander, women's, clean and sober, youth, and

hearing impaired communities. We asked about what works and what doesn't and how we could help to increase their participation in the event. Look at the content of our publications and at the diversity of our

our publications and at the diversity of our programming and stages to see the results. There has always been a perceived tension over whether Pride is a party or a political event. What we heard this past year at the majority of our rap groups and public forums was that people want Pride to be a great celebration and party but also want it to reclaim the political meaning that gave birth to it in the first place. The Pride Committee firmly believes that you can have both if it's done with sensitivity and a commitment to be inclu-**Guest Opinion** 

sive of all elements of the

community in the event.
We understand that there
are people who feel that the Pride Commitare people who clear that the Tride Committee tee should just organize the celebration and not be "political." With no disrespect to them intended, we felt that the worsening situation for civil liberties, human rights, and social justice here in the United States under the justice here in the United States under the Bush regime called for a response. This past year we came out with a strong statement against the Iraq War and there will be an antiwar contingent featured in the parade. We have entered into an unprecedented agreement with the LGBT rights organization Equality California to ensure that the community has ample opportunities to learn about pending legislation that significantly impacts lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. LGBT rights are human rights and we see our movement

as part of the international struggle for human rights in all their forms. All of these changes have been possible because of our great staff and the incredible people who serve on our board of directors. people wno serve on our board of directors. It was not uncommon a number of years ago for someone to think you were nuts to serve in the snake pit of the Pride Committee. There has been a sea change from that time to now. Our board reflects the diversity of to now. Our board renects the diversity of the SF/Bay Area queer community. Board members share a deep respect for and trust of one another and we make most of our decisions by consensus. Pride is a membership-based or-

ganization and we encourage people to join. See our Web site at www.sfpride.org for more information.

As we head into the

33rd annual LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration I want to thank all Parade and Celebration I want to thank all of the communities, organizations, volunteers, businesses, and hundreds of thousands of individuals that make up this magnificent beast. What began with 30 "hair fairies" marching down Polk Street to celbrate the "birthday" of the Stonewall rebelion has grown to become a world-class ritual of empowerment and freedom, to say activing of the best years the process. nothing of the best party in San Francisco.
Come and celebrate our incredible LGBTQ community! ▼

Joey Cain is the president of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc. Board of Directors.

#### LETTERS

#### Calling on Briggs initiative veterans

I don't want to make anyone feel old, but this year is the 25th anniversary of the Briggs initiative (Propo-sition 6). This state initiative would have barred lesbians and gays from teaching. An incredible 18-month campaign achieved the impossible. It took a massive effort, but we were able to stop the right wing tide of antigay ballot initiatives that had been sweep-ing across the country.

The parade committee has invited veterans of the No on 6 campaign to march in the 25th anniversary contingent, along with the band, chorus, and Theater Rhino (groups that were founded in 1978). I hope many of you who were active in the No on 6 campaign (either in a group or as an individual) will be able to

Please contact me at NoOn61978@yahoo.com if you will be marching with us. We are also particularly in need of monitors for the contingent, so if you can volunteer to monitor (whether or not you were involved in the campaign), we'd love to hear from

Paula Lichtenberg, Co-Chair Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative San Francisco

#### Opposed to AB205

I am writing to alert the community about the worst piece of homophobic legislation ever proposed in the state of California: AB205, the so-called Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act that is, in fact, incredibly hateful and hurtful to all of us in its actual implementation.

al implementation.

Why, you ask? Because it sneaks in a little clause that makes all registered couples liable for 100 percent of both part-

rs' debts.
Total "household income" will now lotal "household income" will now be used in all financial aid decisions, including ADAP, disability, and Social Security payments. How horrifying. Under the new law, most registered partners would lose 100 percent of any benefits they now receive, since the couple's combined income will certainly be too high to qualify. Wow! You will get zero. What an introveneme!

tainly be too high to qualify. Wow! You will get zero. What an improvement.

Now, of course we want all laws to be equivalent for straights and gays, but guess what – they ain't. Have you all forgotten that Congress' despicable Defense (Special Rights) of (Hetero) Marriage Act still restricts our equal treatment and forces our families to pay extra taxes? (For example, my husband is a teacher and I am covered under his insurance plan as its registered partner, but, unlike married couples, this benefit counts as income on his federal tax form. Incredible, but true.) AB205 gives us expensive new "responsibilities" but does absolutely nothing to change hundreds of other remaining laws. It's a billion dollar tax levied on gays and lesbians alone, presumably added to the bill to help alleviate the budget crisis and look more appealing to the governor and Legislature.

So here's a question for our reps up in Sacramento: do you really want gay and lesbian couples to have to dissolve their official partnerships in droves? My husband and I, for one, feel very threatened and we're gonna scream and whine until you drop that house-hold income clause, or give us marriage and no more of this back-of-the-bus compromise bullpoop you call "domestic partners." Gay marriage with its full equiv-alency and recognition is gonna happen, so you might as well get it over with now.

> Christian Matthews Pleasant Hill, California

#### HIV is no 'gift'

I was shocked reading your review of the film *The Gift ("Considering the case of the "bug-chasers;" June 19].* A gift? People who seek out HIV are deluded, stupid, or both. They want to feel that they "belong?" To what? A community of people who suffer chronic severe diarrhea, waking up in pools of sweat, hump backs and Crix bellies, kidney stones, \$10,000-a-year drug regimens? Going for monthly or biweekly blood tests isn't fun; you don't get that warm and fuzzy sense of belonging.

of belonging.

Nineteen-year-old Doug should have gone for counseling for his feelings of isolation. Why not join any one of the myriad queer clubs in this city: Frontrunners for joggers, Different Spokes for bicyclists. trunners for joggers, Different Spokes for bicyclists, Tsunami for swimmers, rugby leagues, gay men's and LGBT choruses, marching bands, bridge clubs, cooking clubs, square dancers, softball teams, computer clubs, sewing clubs – you name it. Why not volunteer time for a nonprofit in need of help: Shanti, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Stop AIDS Project, Project Open Hand, Project Inform, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, our community center, even the Pride Committee. He'd have had a sense of belonging.

Kenboy's not scared of AIDS? He should be. That group of guys around the sling barebacking isn't

group of guys around the sling barebacking isn't doing anyone a favor, least of all themselves. They're harming the LGBT community by undermining the safer sex message and making us look uncaring and

safer sex message and making us look uncaring and hedonistic. They're further stressing our deteriorating health care system. Who do they think pays for all that expensive health care?!

I am most distressed by the director's statement that, "There is this subtle pressure. The HIV-negative person feels pressured by positive people to convert." Huh? I've been positive since 1989, and I have never met one single HIV-positive person who wanted a negative person to contract HIV.

People in the health industry and the media have erred in downplaying the significance of having

People in the health industry and the media have erred in downplaying the significance of having HIV/AIDS by using terms such as "manageable" and "drug cocktails." We're not talking cosmos and martinis here; we're talking toxic chemicals. Those pharmaceutical ads may show healthy, glowing HIVers rock climbing, but they don't show you the diarrhea running down their legs, do they?

Trust me. You do not want to contract HIV.

Ken Rackow San Francisco

#### Down with Leno's tax bill

To all the folks who voted for Mark Leno for Assembly, rejoice! Leno has just sponsored a bill in the state Legislature that empowers local communities (cities) to institute income taxes [AB1690]. This is a stupid and obnoxious bill.

San Francisco is one of the most expensive cities in the United States to live in. Our unemployment rate is extremely high. Imposing a San Francisco income tax will make it even more difficult for middle and lower income people to live in the city. A city income tax will make San Francisco a city of the wealthy or homeless – no one in

Mailstrom Just because Leno is gay, that does not mean he is very bright or competent. Remember, Leno's political career was jump-started by Willie Brown.

San Francisco

#### Black triangles needed?

Along with the government's use of the pink triangle to set apart gays in the concentration camps ["Volunteer your pride and remembrance at pink triangle installation," and "City set to dedicate Pink Triangle Park," June 19], black triangles were used to designate "social criminals," which included "bums" and "transients," – the homeless.

Today, many GLBTQ are homeless, and not just the concertoes with the concentration of the process.

Perhaps the gay homeless and their friends could form "black triangle" groups, and, perhaps, adopt the symbol, just as the pink one was adopted and adapted.

If anyone would like to follow this up, send an e-mail to: blacktrianglegay@yahoo.com.

Joseph Gould San Francisco

## Happy Father's Day - not

Father's Day 2003: Walking along without the kids, through the Castro. Two bitchy-ass queens walk by and laugh at my shirt, which has "Daddy" printed on and laugh at my shirt, which has Daddy printed on it, without realizing that, yes, gay men do have chil-dren and families that they care for and care more about. What an absolutely pathetic urine and bitch-ass infested neighborhood the Castro is. Gay shame

Jay Wescott San Francisco

I am happy to finally see some real discussion about one of the biggest health problems to face the LGBT community ("Davis launches LGBT anti-tobac-co campaign," June 19]. Through two decades of AIDs it loomed in the background waiting to take over where AIDS left off. While Senator Jesse Helms stood on the floor of the United States Senate telling his collegator is increastly a LIDS engine that was paraon the floor of the United States Senate telling his colleagues to ignore the AIDS epidemic that was paralyzing our community, his benefactors were plotting to sell us more death for profit. As he proclaimed AIDS to be God's punishment for our sinful acts his benefactors were quietly pretending to be our friends because they wanted our money. Many people in our community have suffered through great health struggles because of tobacco, without ever smoking a cigarette. Like many others in the world we embraced the image of smoking as a sign of freedom and rebellion. Since the release of the secret tobacco documents it is no secret now that it was all really a devious plot to save tobacco industry profits at the expense of our health and our lives. It is time for the majority in the LGBT community to demand that our right to so-cialize should be in a clean smokefree environment cialize should be in a clean smokefree environment everywhere we go.

> Michael Stokes San Francisco

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#### An activist's take on AIDS czar

An activist's take on AIDS czar

It is not just the mayor's AIDS czar who lies dormant ("Mayor's ADIS office dormant," June 12] when he isn't simply lying to the press; people who are relying on the city for sound AIDS advocacy and sound healthcare services allocation have been forced into dormancy so that one person – Mike Shriver – can assert he doesn't owe anyone squat, including the purported 15,000 PLWH/A who have relied on him to advocate for their needs. Ostensibly, Shriver believes that those 14,999 others have to "respect" his special needs, above theirs, and that he owes no one squat.

In January and February 2001, Shriver convened a "Consensus Panel" to determine the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, a task which had not been conducted since 1997. When drafts of the consensus were posted for public comment, I examined preliminary findings and presented the first of my feedback ripping his work to shreds. I held in reserve more glaring criticism, but my initial commentary, in part, kept Shriver from issuing an unabridged version of his analysis of HIV/AIDS trends between 1997 and 2001. Here it is 2003, and all that has emanated under Shriver's pen with the mayor's approval is a pathetic 14-page PowerPoint presentation presented in abridged form, replete with a single page of narrative text describing the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco.

Brown had plenty of opportunity to fire Shriver between March and September 2001 for Shriver's nin-

demic in San Francisco.

Brown had plenty of opportunity to fire Shriver between March and September 2001 for Shriver's nincompoopism in failing to issue a final, 150-page consensus report, after Shriver issued his measly slide show in July 2001 and before Shriver wised up and went on "disability" in September 2001 in order to escape reporting accurately the scope of the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco. Nearly two years have passed since Shiver shirked his duties (apparently with the mavor's blessing), and San Francisco is now into year mayor's blessing), and San Francisco is now into year six of waiting for an official "consensus" statement to be issued since the last consensus statement was is-

be issued since the last consensus statement was is-sued way back in 1997.

Shriver should be vilified by the AIDS communi-ty, not heaped useless praise. Each of his "supporters" quoted should be ashamed of their spin control. Shriver has done nothing more than spin, "cook," and manipulate, statistics, much to our ultimate detri-

ment.

History will likely record Shriver's consensus statement failure as his biggest; and the history books will only add a footnote to his whining that his disability "must be respected" to our detriment, since he believes he "owes us nothing." We can only hope he never returns to work; between his tarnished halo, and Don Francis', Randy Shilts would likely have a field day reporting what we now are learning.

"I'm with former # A # editor Paul Lorch: When

I'm with former B.A.R. editor Paul Lorch: When Shriver's gone, I can finally cross off his name as an obstructionist who needed to be long gone.

Patrick Monette-Shaw San Francisco

#### Protest at the movies

On Saturday night, June 14, Frameline presented the movie, *Yossi and Jagger* at the LGBT film festival. *Yossi and Jagger* is an Israeli movie about soldiers on the Lebanon border in the 1980s. The Israeli Consulate co-sponsored the movie, flew the producer in sulate co-sponsored the movie, flew the producer in for the screening, and was invited to speak after the film. During the credits, a group of queer activists, including a number of Jewish Americans and one Jewish Israeli, went up on stage with banners and distributed leaflets pointing out that 17,000 Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were killed by the Israeli forces in Lebanon, a fact that was not even alluded to in the film, and that the Israeli land mines in Lebanon continue to kill children to this day.

I would like those who complained that the action was "rude" and that they just went to the movie to have a good time, to consider the following story:

It is 1942. A progressive German filmmaker has made a movie about homosexual (that's what they called them then) German army officers on the Polish border. The filmmaker says he is against all war, that

called them then) German army officers on the Polish border. The filmmaker says he is against all war, that the Jews are suffering and so are the Germans (he doesn't mention the Poles) and the film is intended to show that soldiers are just kids and that they are victims too. Before filming, they submitted their script to the army of the Third Reich for approval, as anyone wanting to make a movie about the German army is required to do. The army quibbles with some elements of the love story, they change the script to bring it into compliance, and the army gives permission for it to be filmed in Nazi-occupied Poland. No Jews or Poles appear in the film. The soldiers joke around with each other, fall in requited and unrequited love, make feasts out of canned food, and have sex in the make feasts out of canned food, and have sex in the snow while watching a rabbit. One of them is killed by a German land mine and the last scene is a tearjerker where the survivor meets his lover's parents but can't come out

A homophile group in San Francisco arranges for a small showing of the film (after all, it's 1942, you're not going to fill the Castro Theatre). The German consulate pays for the showing and flies the producer

in from Berlin to speak to the crowd. After the movie is over, a small group of homosexuals of German ancestry gets up on the stage with a banner reminding people that 130,000 Polish civilians were killed in the Nazi invasion of Poland. They hand out a leaflet mentioning that about half a million Jews are currently held in concentration camps. They do not stop the representative of the German government from speaking, and they don't say anything during the Q&A with the filmmaker, where the issues of Jews and Poles being killed is not raised.

Do you feel that this group of Germans was overly rude, or overly polite?

Kate Rafael Berkeley, California

#### Moneytheism

Thank God that Moneytheism has granted our national leaders the insight to liberate the Iraqi oil from the Iraqi people. Now our weapons of mass destruction can continue to be fueled. Also, 5 percent of the world's population (the good ole USA) can continue words population (the good of cost), can confind our divine right to consume over 40 percent of the world's natural resources, without thought that the world's future generations must live in our pollution and the desolation we have caused (cause and effect). And now that this country's airwaves can be controlled by mega-media corporations, our humanitarian politics of conquest, that is, our social Darwinism and "might makes right" dogmas can go unchallenged by those who exercise their constitutional "right of free speech" or dissent. Is this a great country or what?

Douglas Alexander Matley San Francisco

#### Same old tune

In your article "Harris enters DA race," [June 12], Kamala Harris touts herself as a "new voice for jus-tice" then proceeds to attack her opponents as "ex-

tremists."

How disappointing. Especially when you consider there is so much fertile ground to debate. Our D.A. has the lowest prosecution rate in the state – roughly 30 percent compared to an average 80 percent in other counties. The rate for locking up wife beaters, child abusers, and other violent offenders in our midst is also among the lowest in California. But, the best Ms. Harris card on selling negative personal much begin Harris can do is sling negative, personal mud to begin

Harris can do is sling negative, personal mud to beginher campaign?

Maybe that's because Ms. Harris can't talk about the pitiful failure rate of Hallinan's office without being held in part responsible for it. After all, she was, for two full years, the head of Hallinan's career criminal unit. This is the "new voice" for D.A.? To this voter it sounds like the same old sorry tune.

This November, I'll be looking for more than just "Hallinan-lite." I'll be looking for an experienced candidate who will take the D.A.'s office in a new direction and finally get some results.

tion and finally get some results.

Philip F. Conway San Francisco

#### **GOP loves the Greens**

The guest opinion by Michael Alterman and eight others in the June 19 B.A.R. makes one wonder, how many Greens does it take to write a featured column many Greens does it take to write a featured column that does nothing more than tow the party line ["The only party worth going to"]? As is the vast majority of the LGBT community, I am still a Democrat and still damn proud of it. We do not claim to be pure and perfect, but yet still are the only party capable on a national basis of ending the nightmarish Republican right-wing stranglehold on government. Alterman et al. Spiece, which demonstrates zero capability of self-reflection or self-criticism (they hold in common with Republicans that annoying and arrogant spirit of "we can do no wrong"), makes the claim that at the Green Party table, "all views deserve to be heard, and that only by including all voices ... and listening to all viewpoints can the best solution to any problem be found." It is my experience with Green Party officials that once you stray from the pure and perfect Green

found." It is my experience with Green Party officials that once you stray from the pure and perfect Green Party line, the conversation ends and a great, murky-green wall arises. It is very distressing that after all the harm that Bush Republicans have visited upon the nation, there are still "progressive" forces out there who would seek to divide progressive Democrats.

We need to present a reinvigorated and united front as we go into battle with the right-wing in 2004. If, as they did in 2000, the Greens snare people into leaving the Democratic Party to sign up with them, besides making George W. Bush happy, they will also deny that person's ability to vote in the upcoming Democratic presidential primary. As for the few diehards such as Alterman et al., who refuse to learn the lesson of the 2000 campaign, Karl Rove has to really love 'em! After all, wasn't he the one who cooked up the most accurate acronym for "Green" ever: Getting Republicans Elected Every November.

Arthur Arroyo San Francisco

# **Dianne Feinstein wants** no part of recall move

by Wayne Friday

enator Dianne Feinstein (D-California), probably the most popular politician of either party in the state, swore off joining the recall move against Governor **Gray Davis** last week when her spokesperson issued a statement from the senator that said: "I intend to remain a United States senator; I do not intend to run for governor.'



Senator Dianne Feinstein

Feinstein, the Democratic nominee for governor in 1990, and the Democrat who had been considered the strongest potential candidate in the event the recall becomes a reality, joined other high-level California Democrats including Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Treasurer Phil Angelides, Controller Steve Westly, and Insurance Commis-sioner John Garamendi by bowing to the urging from party officials to stay off the ballot. Party officials insist that Davis should be allowed to stave off the GOP-fi-nanced recall without facing chal-

Though Feinstein and Davis aren't close politically, Feinstein is known to dislike recalls, having been the target of a failed attempt been the target of a failed attempt two decades ago as mayor of San Francisco. In fact, one of Fein-stein's top political strategists said that she is looking forward to seeking re-election in 2006 and in recent days she has personally contacted several Democrats indi-vidually, asking them to oppose the Day's recall

vidually, asking them to oppose the Davis recall.

Some other prominent state Democrats, however, are said to be wary of the party's high-stakes strategy to keep Davis in office by having other Democrats swear off running to replace him if and when the GOP-financed recall realize in the helds. makes it to the ballot. Recall proponents must collect 897,158 valid signatures and have them certified by the California secretary of state by September 2 to trigger a recall either this fall or next March.

Although Representative **Dar-**rell Issa, a right-wing Republican from Vista (in San Diego County), a multimillionaire, has basically funded the recall effort to the tune of at least \$800,000 and clearly hopes to eventually buy himself a governor's seat, he would not nec-essarily end up as the GOP fa-vorite to run for the seat to replace

Better-known Republicans, like actor Arnold Schwarzeneg-

ger, former gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon, and conservative state Senator Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks), who came within a heartbeat of winning the state controllers race last Novemstate controllers race last November, are all known to be interested in running. Add to that the name of Green Party candidate **Peter Camejo**, and you have a political free-for-all – and a very expensive, unnecessary, unfair special election that could cost California taxpayers between \$25-\$35 million.

The political establishment in

The political establishment in Sacramento has been abuzz for weeks over who would run on a potential recall ballot. Though Feinstein and other top Democ instein and other top Demrats have publicly sworn off having any part of the effort to replace Davis, some feel that if the polls look too grim for Davis, he might be persuaded to resign, rather than risking handing the office to a Republican. publican. **Our Man Friday** 

The timing

of a recall election is likely the key to the outcome. A March election date could give Davis time to recover from the state's current budget crisis, be re-elected, and watch the entire process backfire on the state Republican Party. Then again, Fe-instein versus Schwarzenegger? I wouldn't completely rule it out

#### Politics and people

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean made a poor showing on NBC's Meet the Press Sunday, and was unable to answer some tough questions posed by host Tim Russert. Dean said he host IIm Russert. Dean said he could not answer a question regarding whether a same-sex couple married in Canada could be considered legally married in the United States. "I can's answer that question "Dean said. Dean also had no labe boursers will be a hour said." idea how many military personnel were on active duty around the United States.

From Detroit comes word that some gay American couples are going to the border city of Windson, Ontario, to take advantage of the publical cardenage of the newly legalized same-sex mar-riages in Canada. Thirteen gay couples, three of them American, were granted licenses in Windsor on a recent single day, officials

there said.

The New York Times reported
Monday that Mary Cheney, the
lesbian daughter of Vice President
Dick Cheney, has just signed on
as director of vice presidential operations for Bush-Cheney 2004.
No wonder she recently resigned
from the board of the Republican
Unity Coalition, a Jarcely vay. from the board of the Republican Unity Coalition, a largely gay group that works to make gays a non-issue in the GOP.

Okay, no one really likes the thought of more taxes, but for the first time in California history, cities and counties soon may have

cities and counties soon may have the state's blessing to impose their own income tax. Worker wages currently can be taxed only by the currently can be taxed only by the state and federal governments, but AB1690, proposed by Assembly-man Mark Leno (D-San Francis-co) and passed recently by the As-sembly on a 41-35 vote, would provide fiscal insurance for cities like San Francisco and others fac-ing economic stability said Leno. ing economic stability, said Leno, adding that the legislation extends the notion of local control in that

the bill would authorize, but not the bill would authorize, but not require, cities and counties to consider imposing such a tax to supplement public safety services. Voter approval would be required, but local governments could set the threshold at a simple majority of a super majority, Leno said. "It's just a tool to use when processor." of a super majority, Leno said. "It's just a tool to use when necessary," he said of the tax. The bill is cowritten by state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), president pro tem of the Senate, which must now consider the legislation.

Mayoral update: The poll we reported on in last week's column by David Binder, howing Super

by David Binder showing Super-visor Gavin Newsom leading at

at the west meading at 38 percent (up from one in May showing him at 35 percent) and showing Supervisor Tom Ammiano in second place at 19 percent (down from the May poll when he

had 22 percent) seems to give credi-bility to the consensus that Newsom

is consolidating his base, with Angela Alioto at 14 percent (up a point from 13 percent in May), picking up on Ammiano. Treasur-er **Susan Leal** at 7 percent, and 12 points away from second-place Ammiano, looks to be in a whole lot of trouble unless she soon shows she can get out the single

As for the debate last Saturday sponsored by the County Demo-cratic Central Committee at the cratic Central Committee at the State Building in front of a sizable crowd, the major candidates looked pretty good. Ammiano and Newsom were particularly good. Leal shows she has what it takes to be mayor, but Alioto pulled probably the oldest political trick in the business when she abruptly turned to Newsom and challenged him to sign something abruptly turned to Newsom and challenged him to sign something he hadn't even read ("Go ahead, supervisor, sign it," she said.) Meanwhile, some 18-year-old kid who's name I can't recall was amusing but in way over his head ("Tm frozen; I'm not used to this," he stamptered) while yeat another. he stammered), while yet another candidate made a fool out of himself by complaining that he was being left out "because I'm the only Republican here" only to later deny having ever said he was a Republican. Laughable. Sure, it's early for the mayoral

race, but where only a couple of months ago I predicted a runoff between Newsom and Alioto, I'd now have to say it could be New-som versus either Alioto or Am-

As for the Terence Hallinan-Bill Fazio-Kamala Harris contest for district attorney? Harris is looking better every day in that

one.
My "Quote of the Week" comes from a recent San Jose Mercury News: "The California Assembly has declared that it is the commitations of the same than the commitation of the same than the same th has declared that it is the commitment in relationships that matters and not whether the partners are of the opposite sex. AB205 passed the Assembly with no votes to spare after passionate debate. Acceptance of gay and lesbian couples has not come easily, but it's happening. Domestic partners are not asking for anything special. They're just asking to be treated like all other couples."

Enjoy Pride Week, and especially Sunday's parade.









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Pride and prejudice at **Department of Justice** 

by Dale Carpenter

as the recent decision of as the recent decision of the Department of Justice not to pay for a gay employee group's pride celebration a sign of Bush administration prejudice against gays? The answer is a rather complicated "no." But as with most things involving the administration's policy on gays, what you see depends very much on where you stand.

Let's recall some recent his-

Let's recall some recent his-tory. When John Ashcroft was nominated to be atwas nominated to be at-torney general, many gay activists predicted disaster. Ashcroft had long supported religious-right political and cultural causes and was on record as opposing **OutRight** 

just about everything on the gay agenda. There was tes-timony, which Ashcroft disputed,

timony, which Ashcroft disputed, that he had once refused to hire someone who was openly gay. In response to criticism that he was antigay, Ashcroft pledged during his confirmation hearings that he would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. He further pledged that he would permit a group of gay employees, known as DOJ Pride, to meet in the department's building on the same basis as other employee groups.

These pledges did nothing to mollify Ashcroft's gay critics, including the Human Rights Campaign, who continued to oppose

paign, who continued to oppose him. Some of them lambasted gay Republicans as lackeys for backing

Republicans as lackeys for backing Ashcroft's nomination.
For the past two years, Ashcroft has failed to be the ogre on gay rights he was predicted to be. One might reasonably complain about his civil rights record on other matters, especially some of the do-metics. Executive precurious taken matters, especially some of the do-mestic-security precautions taken after September 11, but it has been hard to identify specifically anti-gay policies coming from the Jus-tice Department. In fact, just the opposite has happened. One of the most high-profile death penalty prosecutions conducted by Ashcroft's Justice Department has been that of a man charged with an antigay hate

man charged with an antigay hate crime, allegedly killing two

campers in a national park because of their sexual orientation.

There have been no allegations the Justice Department has discriminated against gays in employment. Many gay people work for the department with no fear of losing their jobs, and have no problem being openly associated with a gay employee group. That's thanks to Ashcroft's pledge not to discriminate and thanks to Presi-

dent Bush's decision to keep in place an executive order barring antigay discrimination in federal employment. In his treatment of

In his treatment or
DOJ Pride, Ashcroft also
kept his confirmation
promise. For two years the
group was allowed to hold an
annual gay pride celebration at agency
headquarters. Last
year Ashcroft sent his

vear Ashcroft sent his top deputy, Larry Thompson, to speak at the celebration. The department even subsidized the

All this enraged social conservatives, who saw Ashcroft as their champion in the Bush adminis-

Then came the recent dustup

Then came the recent dustup over department sponsorship of the DOJ Pride celebration, a controversy that seemed to confirm the fears of Ashcroft's gay critics.

Exactly what happened is in some dispute. According to DOJ Pride representatives, a department official told the group they could no longer hold their event on agency grounds. According to the DOJ, the department merely told the group it would no longer "sponsor" the event, meaning the department would no longer help department would no longer help

pay for it.
Whichever version of events is accurate, it is now clear DOJ Pride can meet on department grounds, as it has since Bush and Ashcroft

as it has since Bush and Ashcroft took charge. However, the federal government will no longer subsidize the Pride celebration.

Is this a defeat for gay rights, a sign of Ashcroft's and/or Bush's antigay prejudice? DOJ Pride, backed by HRC, denounced the decision of "a true backward" decision as "a step backward."

Whether it's a step backward

depends on where we rightfully stood to begin with. If the govern

ment ought properly to subsidize all federal employee groups' cele-brations, as it did in the case of DOJ Pride in the first two years of the Bush administration, the deci-

the Bush administration, the decision is indeed a step back.

The problem with that view is that the DOJ does not help pay for events organized by any other em-

that the DOJ does not help pay for events organized by any other employee group.

"We looked at who we sponsored for the past two years, and the only group was DOJ Pride," explained a department spokesperson. "This year we decided against it. It just wasn't fair to have us funding them and not others." (DOJ Pride alleges the department does provide facilities rent-free to other groups. I haven't been able to confirm that claim, which flies in the face of the department's public statements.)

Seen against the backdrop of a general non-subsidization practice, the gay employees' request for money looks a lot like a plea for special privileges. From this standpoint, the department's refusing to pay for a pride celebration wasn't a step back. Indeed, the fact that Ashcroft's department allows the event to be held at all is a step forward from what most gay activists expected before he became attorney general.

he became attorney general.

As on so many other matters,
the Bush administration gets no

The worst is always presumed.

In the grand scheme of things it doesn't much matter whether the Justice Department agrees to help pay a few hundred dollars for a Pride celebration. Nobody's life,

a Pride celebration. Nobody's life, liberty, or property depend on it. However, much of the gay-rights struggle is a fight over sym-bols and trophies. The fact that a gay employee group exists, and is gay employee group exists, and is allowed to meet, in a Justice De-partment headed by a religious conservative in a Republican ad-ministration ought to be seen as a victory. Now there's cause for pride. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com

# Park honors gay Holocaust victims



ean Ray walks through Pink Triangle Park following the June 23 dedication ceremony. The park, located at Market and 17th streets, is a memorial to LGBTs who suffered during the Nazi regime. The memorial consists of 15 triangular posts (for the 15,000 lost), plantings, a triangle of pink granite, walkways and a small grassy area. Local officials attending the event included Wendy Nelder, director of the Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund, Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammiano, Treasurer Susan Leal, and Mayor Willie Brown. The project is sponsored by the city and the Eureka Valley Promotion Association.



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# **Transgendered at Pride**

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

t is very hard for a columnist to resist writing Pride-themed columns toward the end of June. So I hope you'll forgive me this one indulgence. I promise I'll try not to be too trite or clichéd.

You see, as a transgender person, Pride often raises some conflicted feelings. On one hand, I love to be a part of Pride events. I've marched in either the San Francisco Pride Parade or the Dyke March nearly every year since I came to the Bay Area, and I find the festivities to be extremely empowering and exhilarating.

They also remind me of just how far we have to come as a uni-

fied community.

Don't get me wrong: in the last few years I've seen trans involvetew years I've seen trans involvement go from a place of invisibility – even aggressive erasure – to a time where transgender people can be seen at the highest levels in our local events. I applaud both the transgender people who have worked hard to gain a place within Pride as well as the non-transgender allies who have welwho have wel-

comed us.

I recall at my Transmissions

earliest events, not really being sure if there was a place for me within the local events. I did not see any transgen-der films at the SF Lesbian and der Hims at the SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, nor did I find any trans faces at the Dyke March or Pink Saturday. Even SF Pride Parade itself had only two visible transgender contingents quite a ways down the march, long after most had turned their attention to the events unfolding elsewhere.

the events unfolding elsewhere.

I had fun, but I felt as if my transgender identity was a very

transgender identity was a very small part of what was going on. My trans-ness was invisible among these many events.

Granted, even that was light years away from the experience of transgender people in other decades, those who were expressly excluded from such events. In the 1970s, for example, the push to re-move transgender expression from Pride parades led to dracon-ian pronouncements against trans participation. Given that alternative, I would rather just be invisi-

It's not the same experience today. Last weekend's gay rodeo

event included a "missing rider" ceremony for Gwen Araujo, the transgender teenager brutally murdered last October. The film festival included several transgen-der programs, from shorts to the

premiere of a two-film series oremiere of a two-film series on transgender issues. The Dyke March is largely supportive of both MTF and FTM participants, and Pride has transgender people represented throughout the

ssions parade and stage events.

It is great to see this level of involvement finally come to fruition in our local events. Even then, however, there is still much to do.

There was an actual transgenthe very first Transgender Pride Awards. It was not, to the best of my knowledge, an "official SF Pride event," but it was still nice to see something with a trans audience specifically in mind.

That leaves me wanting more, though. I would like to see the awards become an official event, awards become an official event, or perhaps see some other event spring up and be embraced under this thing we call Pride. I feel as if there are events geared toward a primarily gay or lesbian audience, but there is so little out there that is specifically trans in nature.

Another avamale would be the Another example would be the

aforementioned film festival. Yes they've done some great work on this, no doubt. Nevertheless, the programming remains very segregated. There were no gay trans shorts in the "Fun in Boy's Shorts" program - although I am glad to see that a trans-related piece was

gram.
This cuts both ways: in the otherwise great "Reel Transformations" program – the only trans short films collection – there were no pieces dealing with issues of interest specifically to gay, lesbian, or bisexual transgender folks.

Maybe I'm asking for a lot: I suspect the film festival can only do so much. Of course, I also note.

suspect the film festival can only do so much. Of course, I also note it is one of the few local events that does not include a "B" or a "T" in its official name, so maybe it is best I don't let them entirely off the hook.

I actually don't want to blame

anyone. Like I said earlier, I applaud all who have been working on transgender issues within Pride. I've also not been resting on my own laurels, and have been participating in more than my fair share of events, with more to

I also know that the trans community here has it far better than munity here has it far better than many other groups in this country and throughout the world. There are plenty of Pride events elsewhere that are not even close to being trans-friendly, even in this modern day. I would dare go do far as to say that SF Pride is the prost transparder inclusive event. most transgender inclusive event you're likely to find. Indeed, this isn't about finding

Indeed, this isn't about finding out who needs to do more, or criticizing, the good work done: it is about looking toward the future, and seeing how to make a good thing even better.

To that end, I challenge those who are transgender and involved with Pride events to look for ways to build on what has been accom-

to build on what has been accom-plished. I know you do a great job already, but I suspect we can only dream about what may come in the future. To those who are transgender but not currently active, well, consider how you can be-come involved. Finally, to those who are not trans, look at ways you can make sure that transgen you can make sure that transgender people are a part, even if it means giving a smile to the next up and coming trans individual who crosses your path.

Together, it can only get better.

Gwen Smith will be found somewhere within the SF Pride Parade. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

# **Hooray for gay marriage**



arriage Equality California's Molly McKay passes out "Belgian" chocolate kisses to a commuter at Fourth and Howard streets in downtown San Francisco in recognition of Belgium's law legalizing gay and lesbian marriage. The new law went into effect Monday, June 16, the day of MECA's action. One day later, on June 17, Canada announced it would allow same-sex marriage, joining Belgium and the Netherlands. "I'm thrilled," McKay later said of the Canadian decision. "Countries are realizing it's not a battle worth fighting.

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# Peek-a-boo

by Jane Warner

itibank, 444 Castro, June 16, 12:45 p.m.: For the second time in less than a week, Citibank fell victim to a robbery. Citibank fell victim to a robbery.
The first robbery was on June 11
at about 3:45 p.m. A man walked
into the bank and approached
the teller with his hand
wrapped in a jacket.
The teller, fearing he
had a gun in his jack-

nad a gun in his jacket, complied with his demand for money, handing him about \$800 in large bills. The suspect, described as Asian, 30-40 years old, 5 feet 5 inches and feet 5 inches and

weighing 140 pounds, left the bank in an unknown direction. The next day, a man with a similar description robbed the Wells Fargo at 557 Castro.

Fargo at 557 Castro.
On June 16, Citibank was hit again, this time by a different suspect who approached the teller with his hand inside a large duffel bag simulating he was holding a handgun. The suspect handed the teller a note written on the back of advancies this which indicated he a deposit slip which indicated he was armed and warned not to give

him a "rat pack" of marked money. The teller handed the suspect more than \$6,000 in miscellaneous bills. The robber – described as African American, 30-37 years old, 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, and wearing a do-rag cap, green shirt, faded jeans, prescription glasses, and blue gloves – walked out of the bank northbound on Castro.

Anyone with information

Anyone with information is asked to call the FBI at (415) 553-7400.

#### Insult to injury

21st and Eureka, June 1, 11:13 p.m..: A man left the Castro and was walk-ing back to his car **Punishment** parked near Eure-ka and 21st when

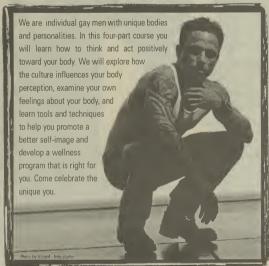
ka and 21st when he noticed a man following him. "Stop, I've got something to show you," the suspect said. The man ignored him and quickened his pace. The suspect followed and repeated, "Stop, I've got something to show you." By the time the man reached his car the suspect had caught up to him. "I have a gun. I want your wallet," he said. Afraid for his safety the man yulled a few. for his safety, the man pulled a few dollars from his wallet and threw them on the ground and then at-tempted to get to his car. The sushe had a gun, then reached over and took the man's wallet, con-taining about \$200. The suspect – described as an Hispanic male, 18-19 years old, 5 feet 9 inches, 150 pounds, wearing a dark jacket and pounds, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants — walked back and picked up the few dollars the man had thrown on the ground, then fled northbound on Eureka.

#### Come and go

600 block of Waller, June 16, 10:50 p.m.: A man met an acquaintance for some drinks and then invited him over to his house to have sex. After a few hours, they fell asleep. When the man woke up, his acquaintance was gone and up, ins acquaintance was gone and so were his keys. Alarmed, the man looked out his window where his Chevy truck had been parked and discovered it was gone as well. He also discovered his walas well. He also discovered his wal-let missing from the bedside table. The man called police and report-ed the theft, giving them the sus-pect's name. Responding officers ran a computer check and found that the casual date had a no bail warrant out for violating his pawarrant out for violating ins par-role. The suspect is described as a white male, 37-40 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 175 pounds, with blue eyes, brown hair, and various tattoos on his upper body. Officers searched the area but could not find him. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.





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# Motion to dismiss denied in murder trial

by Lois Pearlman

onoma County Superior
Court Judge Raima
Ballinger on Thursday, June
19 denied a motion to dismiss
murder charges against a man
charged in the October 1998
killings of gay tavern owner Horst
'Hans' Grahlmann and his employee, Jason Blore.
Grahlmann, 57, owned the
Rainbow Cattle Company bar in
Guerneville and other establishments. Blore, 26, was a sometime
bartender and handyman for
Grahlmann.
Sonoma County Sheriff's

deputies arrested murder defen-dant Zacharia Rutledge, 27, in May 2002, after eliminating sever-al other suspects. Before the arrest Grahlmann's estate had offered a

Grahlmann's estate had offered a reward for information, saying the investigation was taking too long. Rutledge's attorney, J. David Nick of San Francisco, had filed a motion a couple of months ago saying there was insufficient evidence to try his client for the killings that happened at Grahlmann's hillside home in Monte Rio.

Monte Rio.

The motion claimed the only evidence was a knife found at the scene that police say belonged to Rutledge. At a preliminary hearing held last November, Michael Potts, an investigator for the California Department of Justice, said a paint smear on the knife matched paint taken from plaster-board at the cabin where Rutledge

board at the cabin where Rutledge stayed at the time of the killings. Rutledge's cabin is at the bottom of Duncan Road in Monte Rio, the same mountain road where the Grahlmann house is located.

But according to Nick, an expert hired by the defense said the test conducted on the paint samples was insufficient, and the paint on the knife and plasterboard were not a match.
"The only thing that has al-

lowed this case to hang by a thread is the paint," Nick argued. In the motion, Nick also ar-

gued that Rutledge's original at-



Ezekiel Rutledge shows support for his brother, murder defendant Zachariah Rutledge, before last week's court hearing.

torney, public defender Ande Thomas, provided inadequate counsel because he did not question Potts's testimony.

Another witness at the prelimination

inary hearing, Guerneville sport-ing goods store clerk Debbie Becker, said that Rutledge purchased ammunition similar to the bullets police believe killed Blore and Grahlmann a short time be-

The Sonoma County District
Attorney's office did not present
any other evidence at the preliminary hearing that indicated Rut-

nary hearing that indicated Rut-ledge was present at the scene of the double murders.

But Ballinger said there was enough evidence to hold Rutledge over for trial. Holding a defendant over for trial, she said, "requires a very, very low burden of proof."

In an interview after the mo-

very, very low burden of proof."
In an interview after the motion to dismiss was denied, prosecutor Greg Jacobs said he believes
Rutledge killed Grahlmann and
Blore because he dislikes gay men.
He cited an interview with a
Sonoma County sheriff's detective, where Rutledge allegedly said
he had problems with gay men

and he knew "how to handle

Jacobs also alluded to journals "in the defendant's own handwriting" that "indicated hatred of certain people." But he admitted that he did not have any corroborating testimony from people who know Rutledge saying he dislikes gays. Nick dismissed Jacobs's state-

ments.
"There is absolutely nothing in this journal about the man [Rut-ledge] hating homosexuals," Nick

About 20 of Rutledge's friends and family members held a rally at the courthouse before last Thursday's hearing bearing signs pro-claiming the defendant's inno-

One of the protesters, Sue Anne Crane, said, "I've known Zack for over 10 years. I know him as a gentle, caring, compassionate person. I'm absolutely sure he could not have done this."

Ballinger is expected to schedule Rutledge's trial for some time in November. ▼





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# **Supreme Court** upholds Internet filters

by Liz Highleyman

he U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, June 23 upheld Internet filtering in public li-

The high court, by a 6-3 margin, overturned a May 2002 ruling by the Third U.S. District Court in Philadelphia which stated that the Children's Internet Protection Act limited the ability of adults to ac cess constitutionally protected content. In its Monday ruling the

content. In its Monday ruling the Supreme Court ruled that filters in public libraries do not unduly infringe on the First Amendment. CIPA, signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000, ostensibly protects children from online pornography and other sexually explicit materials. It requires public libraries and schools to install filters or risk losing their public funding.

funding.
CIPA is the third legislative attempt to restrict access to online content, following the Supreme Court's defeat of the Communications Decency Act in 1997 and the Child Online Protection Act in 2002. The high court ruled that the two previous laws were overly broad and too restrictive.

The American Library Association, the American Civil Liberties tion, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a coalition of library patrons challenged the latest law, arguing that filtering programs block content that is constitution-ally protected for adults. Existing filtering software, which relies largely on keywords, tends to block some pon-portraphic largely on keywords, tends to block some non-pornographic content while letting some pornographic content through. As was the case with CDA and COPA, plaintiffs argued that Web sites containing non-explicit gay content, sex education materials, and information about reproductive rights and AIDS, for example, were likely to be inappropriately banned.

In its decision Monday the Supreme Court majority ruled that CIPA was not unduly restrictive because adults could ask librarians to disable the filters. In addition, they stated said that the federal government's right to attach conditions to public funding was well established.



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# Six million (condoms) served and counting

Stop AIDS deploys prophylactic patrols

by Matthew S. Bajko

ave condom?

Then ready. Aim. Put it on.
So goes the drill at the
new "Department of Homoland
Security," whose motto is "Helping You Protect Your Borders —

ing You Protect Your Borders – One Condom at a Time."

Taking a cue from the federal
Department of Homeland Security, the Stop AIDS Project is
launching its own renewed safety
initiative to ensure men who have
sex with men in San Francisco are
sex method. properly equipped to protect themselves.

themselves.
Condoms have long been considered by health officials the best defense against HIV. So when the AIDS agency wanted to rebrand its Condom Now campaign, the tongue-and-cheek marrying of the action, affects and control of the nation's antiterrorism efforts with the aging "use a condom" message seemed like a sure fire way to refocus the troops, um, gay and bi men, to the importance of

and bi men, to the importance of using a rubber.

"Like anything else it is good to update things and catch the eyes of who you want to address. AIDS has been repoliticized by this administration and we are not without a sense of humor about it," said homoland staff sergeant Shana Krochmal, i.e. Stop AIDS' spokeswoman. spokeswoman.

After handing out 6 million condoms since 1997, the Stop AIDS Project decided it was time to spruce up its condom distribu-tion efforts. Over the last six years the AIDS agency has made sure jars in gay bars and businesses catering to the gay community are fully stocked with condoms, aver-aging 1 million condoms per year.

Since last year the agency has renewed its focus on the program, deploying outreach workers into the battle zone to refill the jars, conduct reconnaissance on the front lines, arm men at clubs and sex shops with condoms and lube, and answer questions regarding

The battleground strategies seem to be paying off, with the agency doubling its distribution of condoms in the past fiscal year to 2 million prophylactics handed out. For every minute of the day, four condoms end up in the hands

of gay men.
"A lot of times what makes the difference between a guy using a condom or not using a condom is if he has a condom with him," said

#### Heated battle

The analogy to fighting terror-ism seems only fitting since the battle over condoms has heated up in recent months. Across AIDS

the country Al agencies that promote condom use find them-selves in the over public health. cross-hairs

fighting in the con-dom trenches face re-newed attacks on the condom

on the condom code by the absti-nence-promoting reli-gious right, Republican lawmak-ers scuttling prevention programs, troubling research studies, and even gay men bored by condom campaigns. campaigns.

campaigns.

A study in the June American
Journal of Public Health found that
despite condoms being a key HIV
prevention tool, there was no
trend toward greater condom use
between 1996 and 2000. The researchers found that while persons at increased behavioral risk for HIV are more likely than others to use condoms, most are not using condoms with their regular partners.

Based on data from the General Social Survey, a nationally representative survey of adults living in the United States, the researchers estimated that 7 million to 12 million adults are at into 12 million adults are at increased risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV through risk behavior. Only 19.5 percent of the adults surveyed reported using a condom during their last sexual

intercourse.

Even when people are using condoms, problems still exist. A

new report this month by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS suggests that even when people use condoms consistently, condoms fail to protect against HIV exposure 10 percent of the time due to incorrect usage

and human error.
In San Francisco, where all those condoms reportedly are being used, HIV rates continue at epidemic levels, sexually transmitted disease rates are on the rise, and research continues to find

HOMOLAND troubling trends of unprotected anal in-tercourse in the gay communi-ty.

in the June Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes based on data collected by Stop AIDS, found

that potentially serodiscordant unprotected anal intercourse with at

serodiscortaint inprotected anal intercourse with at least two anal sex partners was reported by 12.7 percent of the 10,579 men surveyed at gay-oriented venues in the city. While that is less than the 16.2 percent recorded in 2001, it is still higher than the 11 percent found in 1999.

"To sustain an HIV epidemic, persons who are HIV-positive must have unprotected sex (or other behavior resulting in HIV transmission) with persons who are HIV-negative. Further, the propagation of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases requires unprotected sex with, on average, two or more partners of opposite infection status," write average, two or more partners of opposite infection status," write the researchers. "Knowing one's own HIV serostatus, mutual disclosure of HIV serostatus between sexual partners, and use of condoms in sexual encounters that may be 'serodiscordant' is a strategy that should slow or halt the epidemic."

Armed with their condoms, the troops at the Department of Homoland Security hope to do just that.

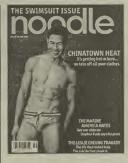
# **Noodle** mag running strong

by Matthew S. Bajko

year after Noodle hit newsstands, the magazine is an astounding success. Geared to the gay Asian and Pacific Is-lander community, it is garnering awards, expanding overseas, and giving voice to a community often overlooked.

The magazine was chosen as one of the 30 most notable launches out of the 745 magazines launched in 2002 by Samir A. Husni, who operates the www.mr-magazine.com Web site. *Noodle* is magazine.com web site. Nooale is now sold across the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Guam, and Spain, with plans to expand into more Asian countries within the

"Both in a gay and straight sense, we are presenting imagery



of Asian Pacific Islander men that really hasn't been out there at all. The images we put out there are ones we put out ourselves and ones we think are attractive to us," said managing editor Chris Bucoy

formerly home to the infamous SF Baths on Ellis Street, Noodle has beat all the odds for a newcomer to the rough and tumble periodicals market. Whereas most magazines never survive past their second issue let along a full reond issue, let alone a full year, Noodle published its fifth quarterly issue this month.

It has been selling so well at stores in the Borders Books chain that the company is expanding the title to more locations and increasing the number of copies per store. Tower Records and Books, Barnes & Noble, as well as countless specialty bookstores carry the

Newsstand sales of the magazine, published every three months, have increased 25 percent with each issue. The first issue sold

page 20 ▶

I have HIV and I have

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After I contracted HIV I was asked when I would have boyfriends again.

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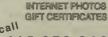
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# **Transgender Law Center** makes early progress

by Zak Szymanski

Imost one year ago, San Francisco made history with the opening of the Transgender Law Center, the first statewide nonprofit dedicated to legal questions or strongle and legal questions or struggles relat-ed to real or perceived gender

identity.

Like most laws that cover gender identity in California, TLC recognizes the term "transgender" to include "all of the innumerable genders and forms of gender expression that fall within and outside of stereotypical gender norms," according to TLC staff.

Gender-based discrimination can affect everyone from the man perceived as "too effeminate" to the woman who appears to be too "butch" to the transgender person with characteristics perceived as

with characteristics perceived as "opposite" from his or her identity. Still, those who face the most overt discrimination often fall along the transgender spectrum, as not all laws have gender related

TLC has made much progress since it officially opened in September 2002. At that time, the organization was still housed in the headquarters of the National Cen-ter for Lesbian Rights, which has provided over \$20,000 in financial support to the effort.

With the hard work of TLC

With the hard work of LLC founders, attorneys Chris Daley and Dylan Vade, the organization secured enough grants for short-term salary and expense needs, including funding from the Echoing Green Foundation; the Horizons Foundation; and Van Loben Sels/RenbeRock Foundation.

Now, with two full-time staff

people on board (Vade is also a Yale Fellow for public interest law), TLC is housed in two separate quarters donated by its fiscal sponsor FTM International. Daley shares office space with FTMI on 14th Street, in the same office as Community United Against Violence. Vade op-erates out of the LGBT Communitrates out of the EdBT Community Center on Market Street. The split "works really well," according to Daley, because it affords each at-torney his own space while expos-ing both of them to different pop-

ing both of them to different populations in need.

The biggest change since opening its own offices and having two paid staff people, said Daley, is "the depth of the legal services we're able to offer.

"Whereas we started by mostly offering information now we're

offering information, now we're much more able to get involved in people's cases," said Daley.

TLC does not yet have the resources to take individual cases all

sources to take individual cases all the way through trial. But it does assist or join as co-counsel on a variety of cases. Daley is involved, for instance, with a transgender asylum case. TLC has assisted in-dividuals seeking medical cover-age of surgeries, and the organiza-tion often advises civil law suits related to discrimination or abuse related to discrimination or abuse. related to discrimination or abuse. TLC is also assisting two different FTM individuals who stand to lose custody of their children because their former spouses are challenging their male identities and therefore their marriages.

Advocacy work is frequent, and includes writing letters on behalf of clients that clarify state law. And educational outreach in-

And educational outreach includes publishing reports and hosting seminars and workshops; "Transgender 101," a primer on basic rights and protections, has been presented throughout the

state, and the organization also hosts regular attorney trainings. Just published, in conjunction with NCLR, was "Trans Realities," an educational report on the legal needs of transgenders. The report was released at the TLC launch party on May 15 and will serve as a resource for attorneys, legisla-tors, organizations, and the general public.

"Trans Realities" surveyed 155 people to provide a snapshot of the transgender experience, and found that nearly one in every two respondents experienced gender identity-based employment discrimination, and more than one in three suffered from gender identity discrimination in public accommodation and housing. More than 30 percent reported discrimination in accessing health

discrimination in accessing health care services, and more than 25 percent reported being harassed or abused by a police officer. It's not surprising that TLC has been very busy.

But Daley credits the San Francisco legal community with offering a tremendous amount of support to the organization and port to the organization, and making the fulfillment of TLC's mission a little less daunting.

"We're really lucky," said Daley.
"While we're the only trans-specific legal center, a lot of other legal organizations have a history of heading with the same and the same a

of working with transgenders, or are willing to learn."

TLC offers free assistance to transgenders and their families, and mostly-free technical support to other attorneys

For more information, visit www.transgenderlawcenter.org; call (415) 865-0176; or e-mail info@transgenderlawcenter.org. ▼

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For more information, please contact Dr. Stephen Becker of Pacific Horizon Medical Group Call 415-292-5477 ext. 480.

## **Noodle** mag

3,500 copies and is now up to 5,500. Subscriptions are at 1,700. "I think the word is out. People are telling others about Noodle," said publisher Max Lau. "Some people are still discovering what Noodle is all about, and so are we."

Lau readily admits that he doesn't know for sure why his magazine, whose tagline reads "It's all in your head," has been a hit. But he guessed that "Our covers have a lot to do with it."

Margaret Cho landed on the

Margaret Cho landed on the cover of the inaugural issue and was on hand last June to help launch the magazine before a ca-pacity crowd inside the LGBT Community Center. Since then. sexy Asian and Pacific Islander

men have graced the covers.
Inside, the fashion spreads also have a distinctly Asian flavor. In the latest issue, muscled API guys romp through Chinatown sport-

ing the latest swimwear fashions.
"For a lot of our readers that's really the principal reason why they pick up the magazine at all, to be really honest," said Bucoy

The editorial spreads of the magazine also provide readers with topics often not found in the with topics often not found in the mainstream gay press. Articles have tackled everything from the struggles faced by Asian and black couples, the impacts of September 11 on the gay API community, to the controversial Asian film Better Light Townstream Long before at Luck Tomorrow. Long before attention was focused on crystal use and HIV rates this spring, Noodle featured the topic in its premiere

issue.

As Noodle's formula strikes a cord with the API community, its success is drawing the attention of more national advertisers. Lau just landed an account with Mercedes-Benz and is fielding more calls these days from advertising agentics.

Despite the magazine's successes, so far none of the writers, photographers, editors or even Lau himself are paid for their contributions to the magazine.
Though Lau hopes that will change by the second anniversary of the magazine. "People really believe in what

we are trying to do. They feel we should not be ignored," said Lau.
To order a subscription, call
Noodle's offices at (415) 202-8524
or visit its Web site at www.noodlemagazine.com. ▼

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#### Time for Pride!

◆ page 1

particularly at the community level – that goes into making San Francisco the greatest LGBT city

around.
"Not withstanding the challenges – economic and otherwise – over the past year, we're ready and on target for an even greater event this year than last," Teddy Witherington, executive director of Pride, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "So march proudly, dance fiercely, and protest freely. That's what it's all about."

#### Friday, June 27

And you thought you had a few more days to prepare for the festivities! Friday night features the official Pride kick-off party, hosted by the popular party Fag Fridays, from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. at the Endup at Harrison & 6th streets; call (415) 263-4850 or vicit wave farfidays come 4850 or visit www.fagfridays.com for more information.

For an alternative dance party, there's the electro/hiphop/pop/rock club Cheap Trick at the Stud, at 9th and Harrison. Visit

Stud, at 9th and Harrison. Visit www.clubcheaptrick.com
For a more formal, but no less energized venue, the 25th annual Pride Concert takes place at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Murphy Auditorium, Mission High School, 3750 18th Street. The concert, "Oliver Button is a STAR," plays off the award-winning children's book, Oliver Button is a Sissy, and features performances by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and the Gay and Lesbian Freedom and the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Band. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; call (415) 865-3650 or visit www.sfgmc.org for

#### Saturday, June 28

Wake up in time for the **official Pride Brunch** at 11 a.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1231 Market Street, which honors the Pride Parade grand marshals and raises funds for the Positive Re-source Center. More than 300 activists, leaders, and entertainers are expected to attend; call (415) 777-0333 for more information.

Official Pride festival events at the Civic Center offer main stage the Civic Center ofter main stage performances, ceremonies, and rallies all day on Saturday, and other Saturday stages include a dance arena with an emphasis on hip-hop and youth, and the Faerie Freedom Village.

The main stage – located in front of City Hall – kicks off with the sixth annual "Stand Against Hate" at noon, organized by

the sixth annual "Stand Against Hate" at noon, organized by Community United Against Violence and the politically charged San Francisco Mime Troupe. The hourlong program will feature performers Connie Champagne, Shawna Virago, and others in an appeal to end violence and hatred of all kinds.

Next up, at 1 p.m., is the annu-

al domestic partner ceremony, presented by Board of Equaliza-tion Chairwoman Carole Migden and this year's organization grand and this years organization grand marshal of the parade, Marriage Equality California. The ceremony will feature approximately 100 couples who will make their com-mitments public and formal, and a champagne and cake reception follows. Couples wishing to participate should call (415) 288-8865.

ipate should call (415) 288-8865. Saturday's main stage entertainment will have a distinct jazz and blues flavor, with performers including Paula West, Spencer Day, and Jacqui Naylor. For a complete stage lineup, visit: www.sfpride.org/stages/main/saturdayhtm.

#### Sunday, June 29

Tired yet? There's much more to come. Sunday is the official **Pride Parade**, which kicks off early this year, at 10 a.m. The general public watches the parade from the sidewalks lining both sides of Market Street, from Reale to Fighth Those with accree

Beale to Eighth. Those with accessibility needs are invited to reserved and complimentary seating, and each ticket comes with a "partner" ticket. Those too exhausted to stake out a good view should tune in to KRON Channel

4, which will broadcast the event.
The SF Women's Motorcycle Contingent kicks off the parade, followed by nearly 200 contingents of marchers and floats representing the arts, education, labor, politics, families, faith, sports, youth, elders, activism, and more.

Parade celebrity grand mar-shals include the celebrities Marga Gomez, comedian and actress, and Tales of the City author Armistead Maupin. Community grand marshals are the Reverend Cecil Silais are the Reverend Cecil Williams; youth activist Marina Gatto; transgender performer Vicki Marlane; anti-violence ac-tivist Terry Person-Harris; and HIV and LGBT activist Hank Wil-

son. Organizational grand marshal is Marriage Equality California.

After the parade, head on over to Civic Center for the **Pride Festival**, where hundreds of thousands of people will enjoy food and drink, vendor booths of sex toys, T-shirts, arts and crafts, and an over-whelming number of different en-tertainment stages and areas. Sunday's stages include Nec-tage the women's stage which fea

tar, the women's stage, which fea-tures drag king, faux queen, dance, and music performances by the hottest local talent; **Shad**owplay, a dance stage featuring old and new music outside the mainstream; the Asian & Pacific mainstream; the Asian & Pacific Islander (API) stage, featuring performers from across the coun-try as well as HIV testing; the Sundance stage, featuring two-step, line-dance, waltz, swing, and the best in queer country western dancing; the **SwingOUT! stage**, featuring 1930s and 1940s music, jump blues, and modern swing: Faerie Freedom Village, a commercialism-free space open to genders; Soul of Pride, pen to all

African American stage featuring soul, hip-hop, dance, R&B, and DJs; the Latin stage, featuring well-known performers and DJs; the Tantra stage of trance and the lantra stage of trance and electronica music; the Writers' Village, showcasing the best in LGBT fiction, nonfiction, and po-etry; and the Dance Arena, fea-

turing music by Fag Fridays.
Other areas include "Leather
Alley"; an interruption and obstacle-free deaf and hard of stacle-free deaf and hard of hearing gathering space; and a grope-free safe space. Also be sure to check out the harm reduction booth sponsored by DanceSafe and other organizations, which will provide literature and information on everything from drugs to safer sex and hearing protection. DanceSafe solune. ing protection. DanceSafe volun-teers will also provide free ecstasy adulterant screening. And Maitri will host an "Oasis" tent area for people with AIDS who want to take a time-out from the mayhem Refreshments, restrooms, and a nice area to relax will be featured

"We hope that this space will help PWAs enjoy a fun-filled Pride celebration," said Maitri Executive Director Tim Patriarca. People should look for the Red Bull tent at McAllister and Polk streets. The tent will be open Saturday and

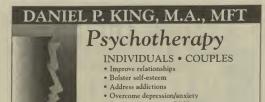
Sunday. Pride's **Main stage** on Sunday features a diverse lineup of inter-national performers and local talent. Headlining the program is award-winning, show-stopping singer and actress Jennifer Holliday. Also featured are two of the Grammy-Award winning Pointer Sisters; New York rockers Betty; Billboard chart toppers Klymaxx; the dance-hit sensation Funky Green Dogs; and out Argentinean blues rocker Celeste Carballo.

Local and regional talent on the main stage includes the 1950s drag band the Woodyz; the tranny rocker girl band Pepperspray; out gay rapper Deadlee; singer/song-writer Garrin Benfield; Empress writer Garrin Benfield; Empress Snatch; vocalist LZ Phoenix; Big Lou's Polka Casserole; and the gospel choir Transcendence. Addi-tionally, Marianne Kooken, win-ner of the "Pride Idol" competition will perform. A complete schedule of performers is available at www.sfpride.org/stages/main/

A "Soulful Pride" after-party, presented in conjunction with California Black Pride, takes place from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m. at Club NV, 525 Howard Street; visit w.clubrimshot.com for more

information.
Sound like a lot? There's even more; check out the local fliers and Pride Web site for related listings. Pride organizers and party promoters have promised that this will be one to remember.

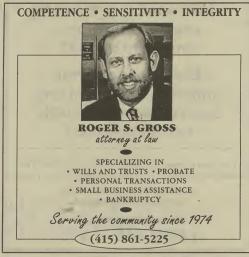
More information on Pride events, including disability access, performers' schedules, parade viewing, and maps, is available at www.sfpride.org

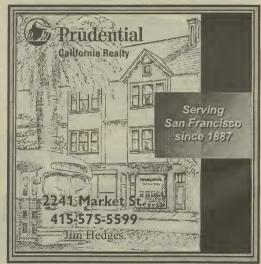


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#### Chorus

**∢** page 1

lead the chorus, which he had started as an adjunct to his San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling

"I didn't give up my day job," said Kramer, who gave private voice lessons for a living at the

The chorus did its first full concert on December 20 at Everett Middle School.

"The house was full of people. They were cheering us, before we even started making music,"

even started making music,"
Kramer said.

"We sang at places like the
First Unitarian Church, at Mission High, the news had gotten
out," Kramer said.

A 1980 Bay Area Reporter review of one of the concerts said
that the "San Francisco Gay
Men's Chouse doesn't have an au-

Men's Chorus doesn't have an au dience, it sings to a theater full of

#### Mission unchanged

Current artistic director and conductor Kathleen McGuire, a short matter-of-fact Australian woman who started with the chorus in 2000 and is its first female leader, said that most of the chorus' mission reagins.

chorus' mission remains un-changed since its beginnings.

She recalled an incident dur-ing the chorus' 2001 tour, after the group's performance in New york's Carnegie Hall. She said she was riding in a hotel elevator with one of the singers.

"He was crying," McGuire said. "He hugged me, and said

'for the first time in my life I feel proud to be who I am.'" According to Supervisor Tom

Ammiano, who was at the group's first rehearsal, and was a member for about six months until he moved on to start his career in stand-up comedy, the chorus gives gay men a way of asserting pride in being gay – without talking about sex.
Sims's chorus and his march-

ing band, almost uniquely, give gay people a way of standing up in front of the whole community

For its members, whatever else they may be going through, the chorus provides a touchstone and a rhythm in their lives.

a rhythm in their lives.

"We rehearse on Mondays," said Emery. "We always have and we always will."

It is also a social outlet.

"Don't forget to mention that

it was very, very cruisy," Ammiano said. "I met my lover, Tim Curbo, at a Christmas party we had in December of 1978. I was a coloratura, and he was a baritone

and we eyed each other across the room all night."

Like many, Tony McIntosh, who has been in the group for 19 years, said that most of his closest friends are in the chorus.

And being in the chorus provides a way of coming out to friends and family. But much of what keeps singers coming back, is the thrill of singing in a large ensemble

#### Rehearsal

At a recent rehearsal in Mission High School's cavernous auditorium, McGuire stood on stage while about 60 of the chorus members faced her from the auditorium's wooden seats. They were preparing for this year's Pride Concert that will be held in the same room on Friday, June 27
"Start with a 'hiss,'" she said

"Hold your finger in front of your mouth to make sure air is coming out. It helps you get real-

All 60 of the men started making un-musical sounding hissing noises. As they finished McGuire said, "Now let's go on to the 'ah-

said, Now let's go on to the an-wah' sound."

By about 7:15 p.m. McGuire moved on to scales, which the chorus sang as a round, and as they did, slowly, the room filled with a huge, warm, rich resonant

Standing in the middle of the ensemble as they sing feels like being part of a very large musical instrument.

"When it's really in tune, something happens. You're in the chord. It's the blend," McGuire said. "Parts of your body vibrate with the overtones. You get a high

from it."
By 7:35 p.m., the chorus was By 7:35 p.m., the chorus was working through an oratorio that will be the centerpiece of this year's Pride Concert. Oliver Button is a STAR, a musical adaptation of Tomie dePaola's children's book Oliver Button is a Sissy, is book Oliver Button is a Sissy, is beaut a bow who would rather be about a boy who would rather be a dancer than a ball player. One of the chorus' members, Michael Hamlin, is the star and main soloist. The piece will be narrated out actor and author B.D.

Wong.
"Okay," McGuire said, "I cannot hear the words at all, and I think they're important." Later she said, "It's important

we do this kind of music, to pro-mote tolerance."

Meter the run-through of the new Button piece, McGuire worked to keep the chorus challenged, yet still confident.

"Let's do something we know childly be the chorus characters to chore a currely we know that he was a currely we have the chorus to chorus the choru

a little better to cheer ourselves up," she said, smilingly, and started the chorus into its version of "Girls Just Want to Have Fun."

#### 1981 tour

The chorus' mission, and the effect the group has on audiences, is not much different than it was when it first went on tour in 1981 with Kramer.

"Your performance provided, for the first time in my life, both pride and honor," wrote one gay fan from Connecticut in a letter to the chorus.

Another fan, from Virginia,

wrote to say that he "stood, ap-plauded, and cried because I was so proud of all of you – and of

being gay."

In Seattle, at the opera house where the chorus performed, the group got a bomb threat in the middle of the concert, but the members voted unanimously, Kramer said, to go on with the

The tour planted the seeds for the gay chorus movement in the U.S. and, eventually around the

"In D.C., the week after we

were there, they got a chorus started," Kramer said. Today, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses has 180 members and 10,000 singers, but

the San Francisco Gay Men's
Chorus was the first.
The chorus performed in
eight cities across the country, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, and returned tri-umphant. Some 3,000 people greeted the group at 18th and Castro in late June 1981. Reports of the tour and the celebration for their return start-

ed on the front cover of a July issue of the B.A.R.

But far in the back of the same

paper, on page 34, was a small, boxed report.

"According to sources at Mt. Zion Hospital, it is impossible to say what role, if any, the use of 'poppers,' plays in the development of gay men's pneumonia. The pneumonia is treatable," the

report stated.
What doctors first thought was pneumonia turned out to be an opportunistic infection as a result of AIDS, for which there is

According to McIntosh, to date AIDS has killed 250 of the 1,500 alumni of the chorus.

"We sang at two or three fu-nerals a week," McIntosh recalled. At the memorials the chorus would usually perform a musical setting of the traditional "Irish Blessing" that begins, "May the road rise up to meet you." The gentle but resolute hymn is still a

pert of the group's repertoire.

The chorus acted, for its members, as a support group during the worst years of the AIDS epidemic.

In 1993 a San Francisco

In 1993 a San Francisco Chronicle photographer asked the 115 chorus members to pose for a photograph. New members in black tuxedos stood with their backs to the camera. Singers who had been with the chorus since the start wore white shirts and stood face forward.

"There were six of us left at the time," recalled Emery.

The chorus does two major oncerts a year, continues a 13-year tradition of its "Home for the Holidays" Christmas Eve con-cert at the Castro Theatre, and does what it calls "Sing Outs" at schools and community centers San Francisco and around the

Bay Area.
"Last December we did 32 gigs," McGuire said.

The Sing Outs are usually smaller groups. "It's not every-body all the time, it's just me all the time," she said.

#### A 2003 'Sing Out'

A 2003 'Sing Out'
On June 12, about 15 chorus members welcomed a Vancouver youth choir – called GLASS, or Gay, Lesbian, and Supportive Singers – to San Francisco. This group is special, McGuire said, because, as far as she knew, it is the first gay and lesbian youth choir, and certainly the first to join GALA, the gay and lesbian chorus association.

join GALA, the gay and lesbian chorus association.

The group, ranging in age from 16 to 22, was traveling from Vancouver to Washington, D.C. to sing with the Washington Gay Men's Chorus. The group was changing planes in San Francisco to catch a late flight east.

At the airport, but before the kids arrived, McGuire started to run the men through some of the songs they might do. They finally settled on "San Francisco," the city's official song, and the "Irish Blessing."

Blessing."
Later, in the United Airlines
arrival area, the Vancouver group,
about 22 of them, filed through
the gates and into the chorus' little corner.

the corner.

In the middle of the group was a tall blond high school student with his bleached hair done up in a wave. Another skinny high schooler carried a bulging backpack, and wore his baseball cap backwards. Lots of the girls hed brightly solvend him and as few piercings, but there is nothing about the group that outwardly says gay or lesbian.

The way choruses meet is to

sing to each other.

The two choruses faced each other, a moat of gray carpet between them.

tween them.

McGuire started with "San
Francisco." The blond kid swung
his head back and forth unabashedly to the beat of the
music, his hair flopping, abandoning any pretense of teenage
cool. They finished. The kids and
their director burst into amplause their director burst into applause.
"It's your turn," McGuire said.

next page

# **Protest Bush this Friday**

by Zak Szymanski

ooking for something political to do this week that isn't limited LGBT issues? President Bush will be in the Bay Area this Friday, June 27, speaking at a \$2,000-per-person lunch at the San Francisco Airport Mar-

Busses have been organized and car pools are in the works to ferry demonstrators to the hotel to protest Bush's international and domestic policies. The protest is domestic policies. The protest is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the hotel, located at 1800 Old Bayshore Highway in Burlingame. Organizers encourage partici-pants to join them in resisting war and demanding money for jobs, education, and healthcare. De-mands include the end to colonial occupation and racist attacks; the preservation of civil liberties; and no new wars in Iran, Korea, Syria, or anywhere else deemed "evil" by the administration in recent months.

Buses – which by press time may be full – are leaving from Mis-sion and 21st streets in San Francisco at 9:30 a.m. and from the MacArthur BART parking lot in Oakland at 9 a.m. Following a bus is one way for protesters to ensure that they don't get lost. The hotel is also accessible through public transportation; take the Caltrain to Millbrae Station, or the Sam-Trans bus #292. And carpool information from San Jose is available by calling (408) 98-8504.

Friday's protest is organized by the International Act Now to Stop War and End Racism Coalition. More information is available by calling (415) 821-6545, or by visiting www.ActionSF.org or www.InternationalANSWER.org. ▼



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# Medical marijuana resolution passes California Legislature

by Liz Highleyman

ssemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) announced Friday, June 20 that the state Senate had adopted his resolution,

Senate nad adopted his resolution, AJR-13, which urges Congress to allow states to set their own policy regarding medical marijuana. The Assembly passed the reso-lution in April. Joint resolutions do not require the governor's sig-nature.

"The federal government has no business interfering with states deciding for themselves how to treat their most ill and most vul-

treat their most ill and most vulnerable citizens," Leno said at a Friday press conference at the State Building.

AJR-13 urges Congress to enact legislation allowing states to regulate medical cannabis, amend the federal Controlled Substances Act to allow for a medical necessity defense in federal medical necessity. ty defense in federal medical marijuana court cases, and review the Drug Enforcement Administra-

or when the distribution is policies and budget.

"We must ensure that our tax dollars are not spent on harassing, intimidating, and persecuting individuals acting under state law," said Leno

Leno's push for AJR-13 was motivated in part by the case of Ed Rosenthal, who was convicted despite the fact that he was deputized by the city of Oakland and believed he was acting in according with California's medical mar-

ijuana law, Proposition 215. A majority of jurors in the case denounced the verdict after they learned that important facts about the medical aspects of the case had been withheld from them during the trial. Federal Judge Charles Breyer denied Rosenthal's request for a new trial, but on June 5 sentenced him to just one day in

"I don't understand why the government wants to prosecute people whose only crime is being ill," said Rosenthal at Friday's press in, said Roseithia at Friday's press conference. "The law is hurting individuals, hurting the public, and hurting America. We need to make medical marijuana legal and civilly regulated so that we can provide it to patients in a way that makes their health and safety the primary concerns."

Following approval of AJR-13, Leno sent letters to the governors and legislative leaders of the eight

and legislative leaders of the eight other states that have passed medical marijuana legislation, urging them to adopt similar resolutions.

Leno envisions representatives from California and the eight other states – together representing more than 40 million voters – holding a joint press conference on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., this fall to deliver their message to Congress and the American people.

and the American people.

Medical cannabis advocates were out in force at the press conference to thank Leno for his ef-

forts.
"Mark has always taken the

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lead on medical marijuana," said Michelle Aldrich, a member of the city's Medical Cannabis Task

Fellow task force member Wayne Justmann concurred: "AJR-13 furthers the will of the

Force. "He is a real patient advo-

people of California."
"This resolution sends a message," said Eve Tulley-Dobkin, a juror in the Rosenthal case. "Make haror in the Rosenthal case. Make the DEA stop going after good and decent people trying to implement state law. And stop making citizen jurors a party to this by withholding information during trials."

# Click now.

#### Chorus

previous page

"We have never sung a-cap-pella before, never," the GLASS director said nervously. They did director said nervously. They did a do-wop spiritual, humming and giggling through the parts of the arrangement where the band would normally play.

The Gay Men's Chorus applauded the youth group's effort, and McGuire and the Vancouver group's director, an earnest high school teacher named Carol Siri-

school teacher named Carol Sirianni, led the two groups in a few songs they both knew.

After about 20 minutes, McGuire asked the Vancouver group to sit down on the carpet in the middle of the waiting

The Gay Men's Chorus members, as if cued by some hidden signal, formed a ring around the teenagers, and joined hands. "It's a coven," joked one. McGuire sounded an Eb on her pitch pipe, and the chorus began the "Irish

and the chorus began the "Irish Blessing."

The first notes are deep in the baritones. "May the road rise up to meet you." The music washed over the kids. Then high in the tenors, "May the wind be always at your back." The kids' eyes were huge with wonder. Something was happening here, like a musical anointing. Something was being passed on.

And as the last rumbling notes of the basses died out in the wait-

of the basses died out in the waiting room, for a fraction of a second, it was quiet.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will present its 25th annual Pride Concert on Friday, June 27, at Mission High School's Murphy Auditorium. The chorus will do two shows, at 7 and 9 p.m. For tickets and information, call (415) 865-3650.

magnetsf.org

# Gay Egyptian finds arts refuge in SF

Jon Sims Center's Maher Sabry speaks out

by Mark Mardon

ne of the most highly publicized acts of antigay persecution in modern times – the Egyptian government's roundup of 52 gay men in May 2001 – is having a direct, positive repercussion in San Francisco's queer arts scene.

The scandal came to light at

The scandal came to light at the time because of one determined young Egyptian theater artist and gay rights activist named Maher Sabry, who made headlines in Egypt and around the world for speaking out and acting on behalf of his gay comrades, earning him legions of admirers and detractors. In March, Sabry was hired to be the new program director at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, giving the Egyptian national a hand in shaping one of the most dynamic queer arts organizations in North America.

"At the beginning when I came

ganizations in North America.
"At the beginning when I came to San Francisco," said the ponytailed, soft-spoken Sabry, "I found it very small, almost a town, and I'm coming from Cairo which is very busy and crowded, that doesn't sleep by night, and here people sleep at 8! When I went to New York, I found it was similar to Cairo. But I prefer San Francisco because people here are more politically aware, more tolerant, and

I started having friends here, so I decided to make San Francisco my second home."

He's been on the job only a few months, working with the Sims Center board, the many groups and volunteers who utilize the center's resources for plays, readings, dance rehearsals and the like, ings, dance rehearsals and the like, and most directly with Executive Director Charles Wilmoth, busi-ness manager Shani Heckman, and upbeat, indomitable young Welsh intern David Watkins.

Welsh intern David Watkins. They're currently focused on returning the hit production Dooley to the Sims Center July 11-27.

Because of the slumping economy, Sabry will have to help guide programming at the Sims Center through difficult times, and he intends to de everything he can to tends to do everything he can to see that all of the center's programs continue unabated. Meanwhile, events that led him to where he is now, the rampant, government-sanctioned persecution of gay peo-ple in Cairo and beyond. Handling financial troubles and creating works of art here is a piece of cake compared to what he left behind.

compared to what he left behind.
He admits his coming to the
U.S. had a lot to do with what
happened back home.
For a certain period, he said,
"Cairo was the gay heaven. We had a
gay scene that was visible, and people would come from all the neigh-

Maher Sabry, program director at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.

boring countries in the Arab world to enjoy the gay life. There were lots of places that were gay hangouts, gay discotheques, and gay bars."
From older gay men in Egypt he learned this scene had always existed, but hidden; in the last few years, though, the gay scene started to flourish more openly, which may have led to the crackdown.
One of the most visible signs of gay life in Cairo was the Queen

One of the most visible signs of gay life in Cairo was the Queen Boat, a stationary boat harbored on the Nile, serving as a meeting place and discotheque. It had three floors, said Sabry, though he is not a clubber and had only visited once, and was not there the night the boat was raided.

"On Thursday night it was the

night the boat was raided.
"On Thursday night it was the gay night," said Sabry, "and it has been like that for years."
He said people knew that the police weren't friendly, and that there was always the danger of arrest. The police would harass one or two men at a time in front of the beat hauling them off to iail and two men at a time in front of the boat, hauling them off to jail and holding them for a couple of days. They would be charged with offending public morality, a relatively minor offense. But starting in 2000, Sabry explained, "they started arresting gay men from the Internet, people who have Web sites, twisting the law because the Egyptian law doesn't condemn homosexuality."

Now, gay Egyptians were being charged with a more serious prostitution offense – habitually practicing debauchery – originally

ticing debauchery – originally used against people who were charged several times with prostitution, but now twisted for use against gays.

#### **Boat arrests**

On the night of May 10 and in the early hours of May 11,2001, said Sabry, police went to the Queen Boat and arrested all the Egyptians who were there. They arrested a couple of Arabs too, he said, but

couple of Arabs too, he said, but anyone whose passports showed they were not Egyptian was released. All the foreigners were released. "I have an Egyptian friend who has a fair complexion and he can pass like a foreigner," said Sabry, "and he was not arrested. And that's how I knew about the arrests."

At 3 am that morning his

At 3 a.m. that morning, his friend called him and alerted him to the situation. He couldn't do anything that night, but contact-ed lawyers working on the week-end who "didn't take it seriously." He tried human rights organiza-tions, but "most of the organizations in Egypt didn't want to do anything with cases dealing with homosexuality."

An exception was found in the organization called Hisham Mubarak, no relation to the Egyptian president. The name

comes from a human rights activist who died very young.
"They got involved," Sabry said. "They sent a lawyer to the police station and they [police] denied that they had arrested anybody from the Queen Boat. But the lawyer bribed some soldiers and they said yes; that these arrests. and they said yes, that these arrests happened, that the people arrested were transferred to another police station. So he went to the other station but he couldn't get any in-

station but he couldn't get any information, and for two days we didn't know anything."

Prior to coming to San Francisco, Sabry had been involved as an actor, director and playwright with independent theater and filmmaking in Cairo. In 1993 he graduated from Cairo University with a backleok's of arts degree in graduated from Cairo University with a bachelor's of arts degree in drama and English literature and co-founded the Shrapnel Theatre Troupe seeking to "fragment" reality by subverting traditional modes of perception using multiple media. In 1998, he established the independent Maraia (Mirrors) Theater Company, with the aim of visually exploring the cultural roots of taboo and bias in accepted tradition. As a gay rights aced tradition. As a gay rights activist, Sabry was the co-founder and moderator of Falcon Deus, an underground group advocating for LGBT rights and researching the queer history of Egypt and the Middle East (1997-2000). Through his own independent theater company he also wrote and directed *The Harem*, report-edly "the first production to por-

bers allowed to visit the detainees.

"The so-called leader of the organization wasn't on the boat,"
Sabry said. "He was arrested a few weeks before the arrests on the Queen Boat. He was accused of being an Islamic terrorist, and to deny such an accusation, he confessed that he's gay and he can't be deny such an accusation, he con-fessed that he's gay, and he can't be gay and an Islamic extremist at the same time. So they searched his house and found pictures of him and his friends. They arrested some of his friends and they arrested the people on the Queen Boat, and con-ceived all this story about organiza-tion and rituals and all these lies."

The persecution of gay people in Egypt comes at a time when the economic situation in that country is dire, said Sabry, when people are losing their jobs, yet the government is raising taxes. The arrests got major media attention, but the notice of the new taxes re-ceived only a few lines buried in-side a major daily.

#### Coming to America

Is all this the reason Sabry ended up coming to the United States?

"The answer is yes," he said, "but I didn't leave immediately. I stayed and started sending e-mails to human rights organizations all over the world, from Japan to the U.S."

He got responses from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Interna-

Rights Watch, and the Interna-tional Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. He started learning of other gay men who were persecuted, and that these

#### "I prefer San Francisco because people here are more politically aware, more tolerant, and I started having friends here, so I decided to make SF my second home."

tray gay and lesbian love in a lyrical and sympathetic manner in stage or, in fact in the Egyptian media as a whole," according to Arts and the Islamic World, a London-based publication. As a poet, he published his first collection in 1997, Marionette, and has been anthologized widely.

In the wake of the arrests, much of his attention focused on obtaining freedom for the prison-

much of his attention focused on obtaining freedom for the prisoners and justice from the system. He worked tirelessly to bright the situation to light, at all times working in an atmosphere increasingly tense in the wake of 9/11, which only segment to heighten the heighten. only seemed to heighten the ho-mophobia in the culture.

mopnoba in the culture.

He had closed the gay Internet forum he had been moderating, because of increasingly hostile attitudes toward gay men on the Web. And then the Queen Boat in-

Web. And then the Queen Boat incident occurred.

"On Sunday morning all the newspapers had very provoking titles about the arrest of a Satanic organization that worshipped the devil and practiced homosexuality at rituals," said Sabry, "and that the case is going through the high security courts or high security prosecutor's office, and these emergency laws, and the high security prosecutor office and high security court was established to fight terrorism."

Sabry said the newspapers list-

Sabry said the newspapers list-ed the names and both work and home addresses of all 52 of those arrested, and that not until some two weeks later were family memcases had been going on for many years. Arrests were being made in homes and off the streets, receiving little or no media attention. Prison sentences of three years were handed out.

"All the gay hangouts in Cairo re no more," Sabry lamented. Usually they were crowded; you "Usually they were crowded; you know gay men like to go out; and now they are having two or three couples. The place is empty. People started meeting in private parties, but there were informers and ties, but there were informers and the police came and people are scared. The last thing I knew about before leaving Egypt, I got invitations saying come to this party, we have the investor of this country, or the cultural attaché of that country, so the party is under the protection of this person."

Now in San Francisco, he's homesick, and feels part of yet another minority. "There I was part of a sexual minority, here I'm part of another minority. It's less in San Francisco than in other

San Francisco than in other places, but you can feel it when you're traveling around. I stopped watching TV because the media makes me feel uneasy."

Maher Sabry received the 2002 Felipa de Suiza Human Rights Award from IGLHRC for risking his safety to bring worldwide attention to the imprisonment of gay men in Egypt. He can be reached at jsastdrc@jonsimsctr.org.







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Andre Bleuze August 5, 1959 — April 12, 2003



August 5, 1959 — April 12, 2003

Andre passed in the early morning hours of April 12th, suddenly and quiety. He had been faced with many health problems for the past year. Andre had been a resident of San Francisco since 1985 and had worked at Nieman Marcus and Cafe Mozart during that time. He also had his own catering business in which he took much pride. In his early years, his parents had helped and supported him in his modeling career. Andre was fluent in speaking Spanish, and had once managed a bar in Phoenix, Arizona named Raggetty Ann & Andy's. He was also a regular customer at Daddy's, The Transfer, and Uncle Bert's Place.

His unique style will be truly missed by his S.F family of friends as well as his surviving parents, Roger & Toni Bleuze of Phoenix, two brothers, Mark & Louis, three sisters, Crystal, Cirist iand Cindy. He is also survived by his daughter April.

Services were held in Phoenix in May. There will be a celebration of life

for Andre at 5175 Diamond Heights Blvd. on Saturday, July 12, from 11-4 p.m. For more information, contact Bruce or Ken at 415-861-4635.

#### Richard A. Periconi

Richard A. Periconi

Ric passed away April 4, 2002, in Phoenix, Arizona due to a long illness. He is survived by his partner, Scott Shelton, of seven years. Ric and Scott were both long time residents of San Francisco prior to their meeting in 1996. They resided in Albuquerque, where they met, and lived most recently in Phoenix. Ric's passion in life was food. He was a CIA graduate, he taught culinary arts in Los Angeles; he was an executive cheffrestuarant owner on the central coast and owned a catering company in San Francisco. Ric's partner Scott invites all who were friends and acquaintances to attend a small gathering to share in Ric's remembrance and to reunite our spirits.

Place of commemorative: Sweet Inspirations on Market St. Date/Time: July 3, 2003 at 8 p.m.

#### Shary Poushin

Though the fire is over, the embers ntinue to glow.



Shary passed away on June 15, 2003 at 5t. Vincent's Hospital in NYC after a brief illness. He was born in Tehran on May 2, 1967, and spent his adolescence in Sweden. He moved to the Bay Area to study civil engineering, later switching to SFSU's industrial design program. In 1994, he moved to NYC to pursue a career in fashion and design program. In 1994, he moved to NYC to pursue a career in fashion and design. He became associated with several illustrious fashion houses (Gucci, Chariwari + Helmut Lang.). In 2001, he founded Bloc Interiors. Bloc's design approach reflected his exposure to eastern and western cultures. His work has been featured in The Hamptons, NX and New York. Shary made friends wherever he went, because to know him was to love him. He was generous, caring, kind, gentle, open and honorable. His energy was boundless and his artistic talent was limitless. Shary left behind innumerable family members and friends. His memory and spirit will live on in our hearts for all of time. A memorial service will be held on June 28, 2003 at the Palace of Fine Arts at 11 a.m. Semi-formal attire requested. Contact information: (925) 286-3087.

#### **OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

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# **Lesbian artist Adrienne Fuzee remembered Sat**

by Zak Szymanski

s you enjoy all the LGBT artistic events that this month has to offer, take a minute this week to pay thanks to one of the people who made queer art venues a reality.

Adrienne Fuzee, one of two openly lesbian African American curators working in the U.S. in the late 20th century, was a founder of Lesbians in the Visual Arts and the Queer Cultural Center, which produces the National Queer Arts Festival every June. Fuzee died May 18 from com-

plications related to diabetes. She

A memorial in celebration of Fuzee's life will take place on Saturday, June 28, from 1-3 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in the Rain-

bow Room.
Friends and family – including her surviving partner Lisa Kahale-ole Chang Hall – invite the public to learn about Fuzee's work, vision, energy, and love that formed new communities and created a new artistic standard for LGBT

"Envision," wrote Fuzee, de-scribing her dream, "a place to proudly present queer art / a place to discover and explore the queer art experience /a place to en-

art experience /a place to en-counter contemporary queer sen-sibility /a place to critically discuss and define queer aesthetics." Born in 1950, Fuzee was intro-duced to curating at Watt's Tow-ers. An art historian and popular lecturer, she was responsible for curating "Jean Cornwell: Paintings and Sculptures" for the African American Museum of Fine Arts in and Sculptures for the Artican American Museum of Fine Arts in San Diego; "San Diego Contem-porary Art" for the Yokohama (Japan) Citizen's Gallery; "Techno Art" for Spectrum Gallery in San Francisco; "Torch & Anvil" for the SF Art Commission Gallery; "Contempo Lesbos" (1998) for Queer Arts Resource in San Fran-cisco; "Jewels in a Jewel Box" cisco; "Jewels in a Jewel Box" (2002) for the Charles M. Holmes Campus, LBGT Community Cenin the LGBT community" (2002) at the Hormel Center of the San Francisco Public Library.

Over the past several years

hospital struggling with numer-ous health difficulties. At the beginning of May, a group of friends put out an urgent call for help, cit-ing Fuzee's loss of vision in one eye, and the amputation of her left leg below the knee. The friends hosted "Artists for Adrienne" on Sunday, May 4 to raise money for Fuzee's medical expenses. The event – a garage sale complete with on-site photographic portrait services – raised about \$2,700.

"Adrienne had said that she "Adrienne had said that she was surprised and very moved by the outpouring of community support at her 'Artists for Adrienne' fundraiser," said her friend Lenore Chinn. "Cheers erupted when she arrived, and she could bask in the sun and be part of the party atmosphere with her many

Fuzee passed away just two days after her birthday. Donations are still welcome and will help to pay outstanding medical bills as well as funeral costs; call (510) 547-3369 or e-mail jdobkin@earthlink.net for more information. ▼ Thinking of buying. selling, or upgrading? Meet Josh Bottfeld-

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# St. James Infirmary benefit tonight

by Liz Highleyman

onight (Thursday, June 26), the St. James Infirmary pre-sents "Naught Nursies," its fourth anniversary benefit party. The event, which takes place at San Francisco's DNA Lounge, will feature strippers, models, domi-natrices, and other sex workers, teaming up with celebrities from the Bay Area's erotic under-

ground.

The party will benefit the St. James Infirmary, the only non-profit health care clinic in the Bay Area – and one of only a few nationwide – providing free health care to sex workers of all genders and specialties.

and specialties.

Appearing at the benefit will be Dr. Carol Queen, Dr. Annie Sprinkle, ex-porn star Sharon Mitchell, Mistress Morgana, Cleo Dubois, and Fakir Musafar, often called the father of the modern primitive

movement. There will also be dancers, DJs, and musical acts in-cluding Rosin Coven. "Like any other nonprofit these

days, we're facing cutbacks," said St. James Executive Director Jo-hanna Breyer. "In the past year, for instance, we have taken a major hit from our city government

int from our city government funding."

Sponsors hope to raise \$20,000 in a single evening to support the infirmary's many programs.

The clinic, founded in 1999 by Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics and the Exotic Dancers Alliance and named after renowned San Francisco activist Margo St. James, provides primary medical care, acupuncture, massage thera-py, mental health referrals, subpy, including and reterring, sub-stance abuse counseling, peer sup-port groups, and HIV and sexual-ly transmitted disease counseling and testing. The clinic holds drop-in hours on Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. at City Clinic at 356 Seventh

Street. All services are free and confidential.

"The clinic is really revolution-ary because the decisions about what kind of care is needed and how it's going to be delivered aren't being made by a guy in a suit a thousand miles away," noted Breyer. "They're being made by the people who need the health

care."

The evening is sure to be a memorable one, promises St. James board member Sprinkle. "There will be lap dancing, spanking booths, really great bands, and just a lot of sexy fun," she said. "I've been to a lot of benefits where you just get some not-some no where you just get some not-so-great food and a lot of speeches. This is certainly not going to be one of those events.

The benefit takes place from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the DNA Lounge, 375 11th Street. For more information, visit www.stjamesinfirmary.org.

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# Human race

Sports Complex

by Jim Provenzano

I must have quoted that word more than 50 times in the past seven years of writing this column. Never have I felt it expressed more than by the hundreds of Bay Area athletes, and others from around the world I had the privilege of meeting in Sydney. Possibly the oldest of sports is the simplest running. See how fast you can go. Race against time, against faamaraderie.

against time, against fa-tigue, against your own limits. Gay Pride weekend's Frontrun-

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ners Fun Run on June 28 in Gold-en Gate Park will include distance

runners, medalists, and recreational joggers in a variety of runs, followed by food and social fun.

Many of the runners are

women who participated in the recent Bay Area Distance Runners half marathon, and

the famous Boston and New York marathons, as well as Gay

#### Lookin' for my Donna

Donna Hinshaw started running in 1982, encouraged by a friend who was a runner. A cyclist at the time, Hinshaw completed a two-mile run that turned into six,

"and I've been hooked ever since,"

San Francisco's second Gay Games, and the third Games in Vancouver in 1990, set a path to-ward her running successes. She also did road races in Vancouver, Portland, and the Boston Marathon.

"We had a big group from BADR," Hinshaw said. "Dave Studach organized the group, so we had a team of 20-30 San Franciscans on the course." She also did the 10K

the 10K.

In Petaluma, where she lives, she runs trails in Novato and in Santa Rosa. "I usually run out my own, and there's a lot less traffic."

As a Frontrunners participant, she's done many a 5K and 10K race.

"It's social, but also competitive" she said. "Every year you meet up with the same people. I

meet up with the same people. I wanna see how I'm doing with



And they're off: Participants in last year's Frontrunners Pride Fun Run

some other runners."

Among her more patriotic of running events is training for the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., which trails through Arlington, Virginia, and the Iwo Jima war memorial.

"My father was in the Marines."

"My father was in the Marines, so it's special," said Hinshaw. "It's one of several military marathons, staffed by Marines in camouflage. They run in cadence, chanting, and carrying flag every mile."

#### Libby-ration

Libby Smith started running about four years ago, but had done some weightlifting. The 41-year-old had always been a big walker; she's never owned a car. Running a few miles was her regular workout, but when a coworker in her office was training to run a marathon, "I thought that would be a cool thing to do."

that would be a cool thing to do,'

she said.
"For my first marathon, I trained a little bit with BADR, then with Frontrunners."
Since then, the Silicon Valley, Big Sur, and San Francisco marathons are all events she completed She's currently training for pleted. She's currently training for her fourth marathon in Helsinki, where she'll be traveling for her work as a University of California, San Francisco researcher, doing work on the tobacco industry.

Smoking is one of the worst health problems in the GLBT community, but Smith also of-

"Look at (San Francisco Mayor) Willie Brown," she said. "He's taken more tobacco money than any other local politician."

than any other local politician."

Not being into team, or organized sports, Smith still finds a community among runners.

"I like the atmosphere of the gay organizations, especially doing something like a marathon. It's nice to have company on those long runs. It's great to have friendly people to talk to. There's a big range of athletes. It's not like you have to be at some intense level. People shouldn't feel intimidated."

#### Mona Lisa smile

Lisa Katzman, a married mother of two boys, finished her third BADR half marathon this year. In 2000, she wanted to train for her first marathon. "I called a few running clubs,"

she said. "Some were way too serious. I liked (BADR organizer)
Dave (Studach)'s vibe immediately, how it's non-competitive, and extremely inclusive for new runners. Their training schedule was

right."
Katzman trained for the Avenue of the Giants Marathon, held in the Humboldt Redwoods each April. She also enjoys a variety of outdoor activities with her family. Since then, she's completed five marathons, and trained with BADR on Sundays, but only occasionally on Saturday mornings with Frontrunners.

with Frontrunners.

A brown belt in tae kwon do,
Katzman's two sons are also martial artists, so part of her weekend
workout includes getting the kids

With three marathons in five

With three marathons in five months, including the New York and Boston events, at 50 years old, it's no small achievement, despite the lee-way given to older competitors.

"I guess if you get to a certain age they give you lots of time. They want to encourage older runners to participate."

Of the local gay running community, she feels comfortable in it.

"It's a different atmosphere," she said. With a gay brother and a supportive family, she said, "I feel very identified right through the middle, and it feels like my community, as much as I'm a soccer mom."

#### Help out

Want to volunteer? San Francisco Frontrunners needs 20 vol-unteers for the Pride Run on Sat-

urday morning, June 28.

Monitor the race course, fill balloons, help out at the finish line, or hand out shirts. All volunteers get a free T-shirt, receive an entry into the raffle drawing for fabulous prizes, and are invited to attend the potluck following the run.

If you want to run the race, you

can register online at www.sffron-trunners.com and then volunteer before or after the race. E-mail Katharine Holland at khsf1@hot-mail.com or call (415) 447-8849.

#### Rugger hugger

SF Fog's rugby tournament takes place at the Presidio, Saturday, June 28. It's the Fog's first open tournament with teams and

ruggers of any persuasion. SF Fog President Chris Zerlaut noted that more than 60 athletes

noted that more than 60 athletes are registered, from Vancouver, New York, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and around Northern California.

This promises to be a great event, with women and men herding up for makeshift teams in an all-day rugger fest at Fort Scott, right near the entrance to Baker. all-day rugger lest at Fort Scott, right near the entrance to Baker Beach, and near the scenic views of the Golden Gate Bridge (hint to tourists looking to multi-task). Fans can watch for free. Info and directions: www.sffog.org or call (415) 267-6100.

#### Stroll out

If you attended the Sydney 2002 Gay Games, or are a local LGBT athlete, join the contingent behind the Team San Francisco banner in the Pride Parade, Sunday June 29.

day June 29.

Bring your sports banners, wear your uniforms, and bring out those Sydney 2002 medals. Heck, bring 'em all out. Pride is about visibility, and GLBT athletes need to inspire others to show our strength and diversity in numbers.

Stering and utwesty in induces.

Join the jock-ular contingent

#82, Sunday, June 29. Line up at 10

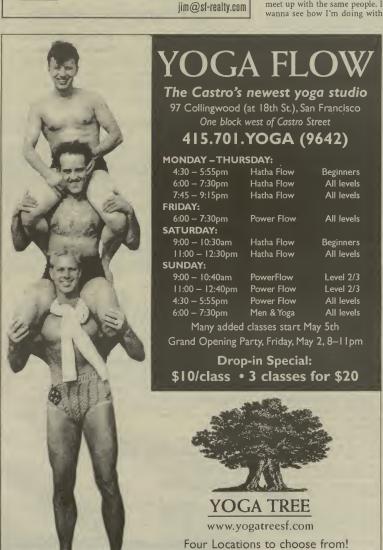
a.m. (to enter the parade at 10:40).

Meet on Beale Street between

Mission and Howard. Visit

www.teamsf.org for more info. ▼

For Pride info, visit www.sfpride.org



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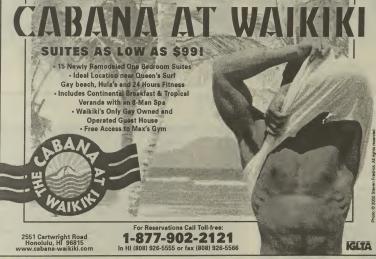
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STATEMENT FILE 0267191-00 The following person(s) are doing busines as:Keith Meinhold And Associates. 66 Marston Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed V. Keith Melnhold. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2003. 05/28/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266935-00 STATEMENT FILE 0266935-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Left My Heart Enterprises. 2160
Taylor Street, #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business Is conducted by an individual signed Randol Forrest White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2003. 05/15/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267065-00 STATEMENT FILE 026/7065-00
The following Person(s) are doing business as: Lew And Mark Enterprises: 76.1 Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Albert T. Lew and Wah Ftu Mark. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/21/2003. 05/21/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267252-00 STATEMENT IT LE 026/22-20
The following person(s) are doing business as:Crab House At Pler 39, 203 C. Pler 39, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jerry Dal Bozzo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictilious business name or names on April 23, 1998. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267286-00 STATEMENT FILE 026/286-00
The following person(s) are doing business as J. & J. Antiques. 209 Sixth Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 9418.8-2311. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Jack C. Hetherington and Jeffrey A. Manddia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05500/2003. 05/30/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILLFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540767

In the Matter of the Application of Enoch D'Bau. For change of Name. The application of Enoch D'Bau for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Enoch D'Bau has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Enoch D'Bau that his/her name be changed to Enoch Day, Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. be granted.
JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILLFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. ICNC-03-540760

In the Matter of the Application of Devin Hernandez For change of Name. The application of Devin Hernandez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Devin Hernandez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Devin Morrandez. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR GOURT OF THE STATE OF CAILLFORNIA IN ANDFOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03540761.

In the Matter of the Application of Julie
Morrison For change of Name. The
application of Julie Morrison for change of
name, having been filed in Court, and it
appearing from said application that Julie
Morrison has filed an application proposing
that his/her name be changed to Julie
Morrandez. Now therfore, it is hereby
ordered and directed, that all persons
interested in said matter do appear before
this Court. In Room 218 on the 5th day of
August at 9:00am, of said day to show
cause why the application for change of
name should not be granted. name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266701-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Budda Amplification. 19 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed John Millar, CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 07, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003. 05/07/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267250-00 STATEMENT FILE 0267/290-400
The following person(s) are doing business as: ZaZa. No.12 Tillman Place, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Khadjenouri, Vicoria. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/59/2003. 05/29/2003. JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267370-00
The following person(s) are delegated STATEMENT FILE 0267370-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:#&A Tours. 1048 Folsom Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Hormoz Defael Jolani and Agustina Genilla Carter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2003. 06/03/2003. JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267249-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Mighty, Mighty San Francisco, S50 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Peter Guksutern, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 22, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2003. 05/29/2003. JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 026/356-00
The following person(s) are doing business assivorton's Yault. 500 Sarcamento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation Signed William M. Dunkle, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and Country of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/03/2009. on 05/03/2003. JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266902-00 STATEMENT FILE 0266902-00
The following person(s) are doing business as VonDoo Mouth Music. 3685 17th Street
#9, San Francisco, Ca. 34114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Annie Eshelman, Adele Bertei and Kathy Samels. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/14/2003.
JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267449-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio Wine Vault. 1430 Campton Road San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Christo Kasaris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or mames on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/05/2003. on 05/05/2003. JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLLE BEVERAGES
TO Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is:Enrique Mitton Avil and Yesenia Hidda Duarte. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #\$600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1550 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of Itemse Applied for: 41-0N SALE BEEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
JUNE 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00 STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Don Quiques Restaurant. 1550 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Milton Enrique Avila and Hilda Yesnia Duarte. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2001 on 03/06/2003. JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267135-00 STATE MENT FILE 0267.135-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:United Colors of Benetton, 39 Stockton Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation stigned Andrea Rossetto, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed flictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/23/2003. JUNE 19, 26, JULY 3, 10, 2003

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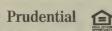
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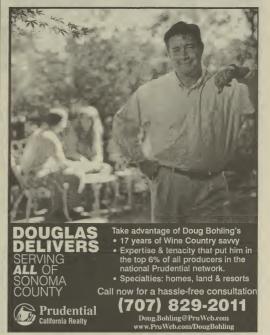
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) announces the availability of funds for operation of the Excelsior Youth Center.

A prorated amount of \$225,000 for nine months is available for the period of October 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 for programmatic, staff, maintenance and operational costs associated with youth service provision at the Excelsior Youth Center.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) will be available for pick up on Friday, June 20, 2003, between the hours of \$8.30 AM and 5:30 PM at the CYF 1.390 Marker Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA

94102. RFPs will not be mailed. Proposal Submissions must be hand delivered to DCYF no later than 5:30 PM. Friday. August 15. 2003. Later proposals will not be accepted. Two non-mandatory bidders Conference will be held on:

Community Bidders Conference Conference

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Time: Opm. 7:30 Pm

Place: Excelsior Library

Place: DCYF, 1390 Marker St. Suite 900

San Francisco, CA

No questions will be answered regarding the RFP after the last bidders conference on July 15th. Additional RFP information, instructions and required attachments will be available on, the department is website at www.dcyf.org. For more information, please contact: Rick Bond at (415) 554-8413.

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Lee Isaac. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 447 Broadway Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of license Applied for: 18-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES JUNE 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

#### 0267439-00

0267439-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Pop's Bar, 2800 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 941.10. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company signed Maila Spanyol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/27/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Canno 66/07/2003. JUNE 19, 26, JULY 3, 10, 2003

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# LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0267773-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Digicomputing Seys (1902A, Jackson business) are doing business so conducted by an individual signed David Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 18, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/18/2003. Ca. on 06/18/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: 255282
The following person (persons) have
abandoned the use of the fictitious business
name known as: Finest Nails. Located at:
1128 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca.
94(10). This business was conducted by an
individual signed Chong Luong Truonk. The
fictitious name referred to above was filed
in the County of San Francisco on:
Expense 19, 2002 JUNE 26, JULY, 3, 10, 17, 2003

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STATEMENT FILE 0267111-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:barra Catering, 243 Ellington Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a Husband and Wife signed Denis F. Ibarra and Lucina E. Ibarra. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06/20/98. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2003. 05/22/2003. JUNE 19, 26, JULY 3, 10, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267569-00 STATEMENT FILE UZG/509-UU
The following person(s) are doing business
as:Pantheon Productions, 1434 Waller
Street #7, San Francisco, CA, 94117. This
business is conducted by an individual, signed Christopher Scott Turner. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 06/11/03. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
06/11/203 06/11/2003. JUNE 19, 26 JULY 3, 10, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267812-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Moniker. 700 Taylor Street, #104, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Roxanne Sotano Inc. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04.019/2013. 06/19/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267603-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Three Dollar Bill Media. 167 Octavia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Peter Howells. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name for hames on June 01, 2003. The statement was filled with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/12/2003.

06/12/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267787-00 STALEMENT FILE 026/7787-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:FINDecor, 258 Noe Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Christopher Galotia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictibious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2003. 06/19/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267830-00 STATEMENT FILE 025/7830-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Bill Computer, 39 Fair Oaks Street #101, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed William J. Clune. The registrantly commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/20/2003. Ca. on 06/20/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267883-00 STATEMENT FILE 0267883-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Architect 0f Justice. 855 Sacramento Street Suite 318, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Don L. Whitney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/23/2003. 06/23/2003. JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

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Vol. 33 • No. 26 • 26 June 2003

# YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE THEM HOPE'

Harvey Milk's famous words ring true today with gays and lesbians in government

Bay Area any and leablan elected officials, clockwise from far right: San Jose City Council member Ken Yeager, City College board member Lawrence Wong, San Francisco Supervisor Tom Alumano, state Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden, Burkone City Council member Danny Wan, AC Transit board member Rebecca Kablun, Assemblyman Mark Leno, San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Duffy, Peralta College board member Danny Moore, Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington, San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leaf, San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon, Hayward City Council member Kevin Dowling, and Contra County City (City Reporting Stephen Witte.)

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# **Remembering Harvey Milk**

25 years after murder, many call him a hero

by Cynthia Laird

s suits go, it's plain. Well-worn, the brown suit could be just another relic of the late 1970s. But this one is not. It is stained with blood, and upon seeing it, one is overwhelmed with a sense of history – that the man who wore it died a horrible death at the hands of an assassin's bul-

The suit is Harvey Milk's. And in this year of the 25th anniver-sary of Milk beginning his tenure on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and also of his tragic murder, the brown suit is a pow-erful testament to the struggle for equal rights that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender com-munity was undertaking then, in 1978, and is still fighting a quarter century later.

Swenty-five years later, the suit is the centerpiece of the "Saint Harvey" exhibit at the Interna-tional Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco. The exhibit is omewhat controversial, as Susar

Some feel that 'Saint Harvey represents a Christian appropria-tion of a Jewish figure, others that it represents a religious appropri-ation of a secular figure, and oth-ers still that the altar-like installa-tion of Milk's bloody, bullet-riddled clothing in the shape of a crucifix is simultaneously sacrile-gious, exploitative, and disrespect-

"Some early visitors have found the altar to be a sobering testament to the power of homo-phobia, as well as to the transfor-mation of tribulation into a triumph of the queer spirit," Stryker writes in a statement. "Others see it as an arch, over-the-top spoof in the style of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence."

Seeing it is an emotional experience, not only for many of Milk's friends, but for others who didn't know Milk, as well as young peo-ple who were either not born when Milk was killed, or were just

toddlers.

To write about Harvey Milk is to write about San Francisco pol-itics in a different era – one that saw the emergence of queer poli-tics. Many people who worked with Milk remain active in poli-

#### Early days

Harvey Milk's victorious 1977 election as a supervisor came on his third try. By then, he had galhis third try. By then, he had gal-vanized the gay community as well as an assortment of other groups, including organized labor and local progressives. The city had also switched to district elec-tions, meaning Milk had a better shot at being elected. He had built up a constituency, and knew the issues of what was then District 5 – the Castro. - the Castro

Milk, a Democrat, had gone through a sort of transformation of his own once he moved to San Francisco from New York. Many other gays had too. Milk's awakening occurred partly as a result of his involvement in the theater scene in New York, and partly in response to the Stonewall riots of 1000 Milk theat when the first the second of the theat of the second of the secon 1969. Milk threw himself into the gay liberation movement.
"We had a lot in common. We

were both Goldwater Republicans and both worked on Wall Street, but I didn't know him in New



Harvey Milk's suit, on display at the International Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco.

York," said Wayne Friday, who became friends with Milk in the city.
"I met Harvey in 1973, during

his first run for supervisor," Friday recalled in a recent interview.
"Bob Ross [publisher of the Bay Area Reporter] had a dinner for him – \$25 a plate, that was a lot in those days. It was a \$25 roast beef dinner. I said I'd give Harvey another \$25 if he cut his ponytail – he wouldn't do it," said Friday.

Milk didn't win that race

Milk didn't win that race. In an interview, Ross, 69, recalled that he approached Milk to write a political column for the B.A.R. He said he met Milk around 1973, and like Friday, wanted Milk to shed his ponytail. "We endorsed him," Ross said, "but I was fighting him all the way on that ponytail. I finally sat him down and said, 'Harvey, the Beat generation is over, you're not going to get elected with a ponytail."

Jim Rivaldo, 56, another long-time friend of Milk's, said that the candidate made some changes after his defeat.

after his defeat.

"After that election, he cut his hair, shaved his mustache, and started wearing suits," Rivaldo said during an interview at his San Francisco office, where he works as a political consultant.

In 1975, Milk ran again in a citywide election. He spent \$10,000 and came in seventh out of 20 candidates. Rivaldo recalled.

510,000 and came in seventh out of 20 candidates, Rivaldo recalled.

"I colored the [precinct] maps after that election," said Rivaldo, "he came in first in many precincts, including Haight-Ashbury, South of Market, North Reach and the Castro."

Beach, and the Castro."
"After the 1975 election,

[George] Moscone was elected mayor and appointed Harvey to the Board of Permit Appeals. He was the first gay commissioner," Rivaldo said.

The results of the 1975 supervisorial race encouraged Milk to seek a state Assembly seat in 1976, and he started his campaign a and he started his campaign a month after his commission ap-pointment; Moscone promptly fired him. Milk's opponent in the Assembly Democratic primary was Art Agnos. The Democratic establishment was not pleased. "It was Harvey Milk versus the machine... Moscone [Leo] Mos-

"It was the free trailing about in the machine of the machine candidate. They didn't like Harvey either," Rivaldo said, explaining that the weekly alternative newspaper was also not inspired by Agnos, the machine candidate.

Rivaldo picked up a copy of the San Francisco Bay Guardian's endorsement issue on his way in to Milk's Castro Camera store. He'll never forget reading through the endorsement. The last line said something about "on balance, Art knows his way around," before going on to endorse Agnos.

"It was the first time I'd ever see tears in Harvey's eyes," Rivaldo said. "If the Guardian had endorsed Harvey, he'd have been in

dorsed Harvey, he'd have been in the Assembly.

"It was a shock. The straight,

liberal establishment would march for women, march for the environment, and march for whales, but-they didn't participate in the gay Pride Parade," Rivaldo

Bay Guardian publisher Bruce Brugmann did not return a phone

call seeking comment.

The B.A.R. endorsed Milk for the Assembly race, and Ross said

it was an ugly one.

"Art [Agnos] was victorious,"
Ross said. "They [Democratic establishment] weren't about to let a faggot get that seat. "It wasn't our time yet."

Agnos disputes the description of the race as "ugly." In an interview, he acknowledged that there was tension on the campaign trail, and said Milk was running against long odds of winning. "There was none of the vicious

"There was none of the vicious acrimony that often characterizes campaigns today. That's not to say we didn't give each other good, solid jabs," Agnos said. "He was always the underdog.

"I got to like him," Agnos said, adding that be even gave Mill adding that he even gave M

adding that he even gave Milk advice. "I was the liberal and he was the conservative in that race. He had a speech that was a 'throw the nad a speech that was a throw the bums out 'type thing, and to stop giveaway programs. I told him, 'You know Harvey, you need to develop a more positive approach. It wasn't long after that that he came up with the 'give them hope' and Altrona From these the rest and Altoona. From there, the rest

and Altoona. From there, the rest is history.

"We got to be friends after the election," Agnos added. "I found him to be a likable opponent."

Agnos won the race 55 percent to 45 percent. After serving in the Assembly, Agnos was elected mayor of San Francisco in 1987, taking office in January 1988. In the 1990s, he was appointed by President Clinton to administer the western region of the Housing and Urban Development Department. Currently, Agnos is doing

pro bono work for several organipro bono work for several organi-zations, including Openhouse; formerly Rainbow Adult Commu-nity Housing, which plans to de-velop a complex for LGBT seniors.

#### Third time's a charm

In 1977, Milk again ran for su-pervisor.

When district elections kicked

when district elections kicked in, he said, 'I'm the natural guy,' and he called his chits in – and he never stopped,' 'Friday said. Milk was up against many can-didates, including Rick Stokes, a gay man whom Friday described conservative, and Terence

Rivaldo said that Hallinan ran

Rivaldo said that Hallinan ran against Milk on a platform that "gay people don't need protections any more than bald people."
In an interview, Hallinan, now San Francisco district attorney, strongly denied Rivaldo's comment and alluded to present-day politics as a possible motive for Rivaldo's remark. Hallinan is running for re-election this November; Rivaldo is working on the campaign of one of his opponents, Kamala Harris.
"I tried to be a sensitive cam-

nents, Kamala Harris.
"I tried to be a sensitive campaigner because I was running in a gay district," said Hallinan, adding that he campaigned on a platform that he could represent the community as well as a gay candidate could.
"Basically by the and it he community as well as a gay candidate or the same than the could."

candidate could.

"Basically, by the end it became so clear that Harvey was a great politician. He had really built a base. After the election, he asked me to be chair of his re-election campaign," said Hallinan.

Agnos said that he supported Stelee in the rece.

Agnos said that he supported Stokes in the race.
Friday, 66, serves on the San Francisco Police Commission and is the political editor for the B.A.R., writing a weekly column. Milk used to write a political column for the newspaper; Friday took over after Milk's death.
That 1977 supervisorial campaign was one for the history books.

"He would stress all kinds of ngs," Ross said, adding that "He would stress all kinks orthings," Ross said, adding that Milk had support from the right—he received an endorsement from Quentin Kopp—and from organized labor on the left, where Milk worked with Allan Baird to get the local Teamsters Union to support him. The Teamsters later began dispatching out gays into Teamsters light of Teamsters later began dispatching out gays into Teamsters later began dispatching out gays and gays and gays and gays and gays and dispatching out gays into Team-ster driving jobs – Howard Wal-lace was the first, according to Baird, who wrote a statement in the program for the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's 25th an-niversary dinner held May 22; 2003. It would have been Milk's 73rd birthday.

Ross said that in 1977 he took

care of raising money for Milk, holding auctions in gay bars and hosting dinner parties.

"He was a good politician,"

Ross said.

Dan Nicoletta, 47, a photographer who got a job as a clerk in Milk's camera store when he was 19 years old, recalled that he was just a young, gay teenager at the time. Harvey and his partner, Scott Smith, were "like gay parents to me," Nicoletta said. "I was from Utica, New York. They took great

'I worked 40 hours a week at the store, and dealt with people's photo-finishing. The place was a circus; we registered voters there as well," Nicoletta said during a re-

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77, said. "I came out here and he was the real McCoy. Everybody was a friend of Harvey's. What you saw was what you got. It was a terrific time.

"There were political gays and party gays. I was with the political gays," Robinson added.

gays," Robinson added.

In the Milk Club program,
Robinson writes of his assistance

to Milk:

"We were on the same wavelength when it came to basic populist ideas \(^{\text{Lowntown}}\) interests versus the neighborhoods, etc. Harvey would give me the general theme, I'd rough out the speech, and he would go over the final draft. He'd had some stage experience in New York, so he knew how to deliver his lines. Short sentences, emphasis, repetition, etc.

to deriver his lines. Short sentences, emphasis, repetition, etc.
He was very good at it."
According to Rivaldo, "One reason Harvey won is because he became involved in everyone's is-

stees. He saved a school, he stopped the helicopter landing pad at Davies [Medical Center], boycotting Coors beer. He had a record of accomplishment.". During the 1977 race, Rivaldo

helped write campaign propagan-da and he and the late Dick Pabich

da and he and the late Dick Pabich helped strategize during the race. Rivaldo said that once Milk entered politics, people had to deal with the possibility that it might not be a bad idea to elect a gay man. By this time, Milk had thrown himself into community issues, as well as the gay rights battles of the day, including the boycott of Anita Bryant and Florida orange juice, the boycott of Coors beer, and the homophobic Briggs

ber, and the homophobic Briggs ballot initiative that would have banned gays from working as teachers in California public

to show the world that lesbians and gay men have tremendous contributions to make and for gay people to come out," Rivaldo said.
Milk, of course, went on to win the 1977 election. Hallinan was

later elected to the Board of Su-pervisors before being elected dis-trict attorney.

Stokes did not return a call

Milk's tenure on the Board of Supervisors was brief – only 11 months. He authored two pieces of legislation; one, a landmark bill prohibiting discrimination against

gays and lesbians; the other, the socalled pooper-scooper bill that re-quired San Francisco dog owners

seeking comment.

**Brief tenure** 

"It's sort of the model that Harvey set – to be involved in the community above and beyond –

## Harvey Milk

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cent interview.

Shortly before the November election, Milk sent a letter to his customers. The letter, a copy of which was provided by Nicoletta, asked people for their support. It also apologized for the state of the camera store.

'As you well know, I'm running for the position of your Supervi-sor," Milk's October 28, 1977 letter states. "Because of all the time, energy, and funds that we here at the shop have been putting into the campaign, the shop has been crazy. Our inventory is low ... our nerves are – shall we say thin? – and in short it doesn't look like Castro Camera (or maybe it does?). As a candidate I make no promise. As part owner of the shop, I make one promise. After the election my promise. After the election my partner Scott and our number one employee – Danny – and myself will bring the shop back to where it should be. It will take some time

But it will happen."

The letter goes on to ask customers for their support, and thanks Scott and Danny for their

help.
"If I win ... and with your help
and your voices telling others, I
can – I will say thanks over and over again by my actions on the Board of Supervisors. That is the very best and most lasting way that I could ever say 'thanks,'" Milk writes.

During the campaign, Friday was involved in vetting some of those who worked for Milk's election. Anne Kronenberg, then a 23-year-old typist, took the job of campaign coordinator, but not



Supervisor Harvey Milk, right, and Bay Area Reporter publisher Bob Ross meeting on March 7, 1978.

before Friday met with her.
"He never had any money,"
Friday recalled. "Harvey said this
gal [Kronenberg] called and said
'I'll work for nothing.' I said, 'No,
she's a plant.' I had to take her to
lunch."
"Tenenberg did not causesely

lunch."

Kronenberg did not approach
the campaign as an operative for
another candidate, and began
helping organize Milk. It was an
impossible task, she said in a statement that appeared in the Milk
Club program.

Kronenberg declined to be interviewed for this piece. She now
works as an administrator for the
San Francisco Department of

Public Health.

Another of those who helped
Milk was Frank M. Robinson, an
out gay man and author (he cowrote The Glass Inferno, upon
which the film The Towering Inferno is based, and has written several other hooks). How meeting ferno is based, and has written several other books). Upon meeting Milk during his walks to the Castro and learning he was running for supervisor, Robinson offered to help with Milk's speeches. "He said, essentially, that if you come work for me, it'll be a hoot," Robinson said in an interview earlier this month.

lier this month.

"I came from Chicago, where I was involved in gay lib," Robinson,

to clean up after their pets.
Ross laughed as he recalled
Milk's media stunt around the
pooper-scooper law. Milk took his
own dog to Duboce Park, where
the animal did his business. Milk
memorized where the mess was,
and later in front of the photogrand later, in front of the photographers, famously stepped in it to demonstrate the need for the or-

dinance. The law passed.

"He knew how to get what he wanted, he knew how to bargain with people," Ross said.

#### Milk's murder

Harvey Milk – along with Mayor George Moscone – was gunned down in San Francisco City Hall the morning of Monday, November 27, 1978 by Dan White.

Gay politics – and San Francis-co politics in general – changed

co politics in general – changed forever.

White was charged with the murders, and found guilty of manslaughter thanks in part to the famous "Twinkie" defense, in which White's attorneys successfully argued that White's "habitual consumption of junk food – particularly. Twinkies, potato particularly Twinkies, potato chips, and Coca-Cola – led to the killings since the extreme variations in blood sugar levels exacer-bated existing manic-depression," according to Randy Shilts's book, The Mayor of Castro Street. The book details the generally poor

job of prosecutors in the case.

The Castro broke out in riots after the verdict.

White spent just over five years in prison. He was paroled in 1984 and returned to San Francisco. On October 21, 1985, he committed

Twenty-five years later, Harvey Milk's friends still vividly recall the day he was assassinated.

"I'm the last person still alive who spoke with Harvey before he was killed," said Rivaldo.

was killed," said Rivaldo.
Rivaldo had gone to Milk's
City Hall office to help out. Milk's
aides at the time were Pabich, who
died of AIDS in 2000, and Kronenberg, who was in Seattle.
"I filled in [in Kronenberg's absence]," Rivaldo said.
Rivaldo said Milk wanted to go
watch the swearing in of the new

watch the swearing in of the new supervisor to replace Supervisor Dan White, an ex-cop and ex-fire-fighter who had resigned his seat. The swearing in was to take place

at 11 a.m. "'Jim, you ready to go? Just a minute, I'm going to get a check," was how Rivaldo recalled Milk's last words to him.

Ross said he had just co-signed

Ross said he had just co-signed a \$10,000 note for Milk. "Harvey was going to pay off his bills, give the store to Scott [Smith], and buy a Volvo," Ross

Minutes later, when Rivaldo went into the hallway, he was met with a "stampede" of police. Pabich was there. "Dan White shot Harvey," Rivaldo remembers

Pabich saying.
Rivaldo saw Milk laying on the floor, covered in blood.

There was a commotion at the mayor's office. Charles Gain, then the police chief, said "He got George, too," Rivaldo recalled.

Board of Supervisors President

Dianne Feinstein had her head in her hands.
"I was there the minute Dianne

found out about the mayor," Rivaldo said.

Friday last saw Milk the night

before.
"I had him over to my house for steak dinner for my birthday," Friday said.

Friday said.
Then-Supervisor Carol Ruth
Silver called Friday with the horrible news shortly after the murders. Longtime Polk area bartender Dick "Sweet Lips" Walters

next page

## EOUALITY SHOULDN'T BE TAXING.

Support tax rules to save domestic partners' homes. Visit my website: www.boe.ca.gov/members/migden

> "Celebrate with pride San Francisco as we follow Harvey's legacy and give 'em hope!"

# - CAROLE MIGDEN Chairwoman, California State Board of Equalization



## Harvey Milk

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also called: "Someone shot the mayor. Someone shot Harvey, too." Friday immediately went over to Milk's house.

"I stayed at his place that afternoon," Friday said. "By 4 p.m. the steps were covered with flowers."

Ross, who was Emperor of San Francisco at the time, had just returned from an Imperial Court function in Los Angeles. A drag queen, Voodoo Mother, called him with the news.
"I almost had a heart attack," Ross said. "I was just so furious. Then, when I found out who did it, I was really furious."

Nicoletta last saw Milk a week

Nicoletta last saw Milk a week before he was killed. On November 27, 1978, he and his thenboyfriend were returning to the city after a photo shoot in San Jose. The all-male Ballet Trockadero Troupe had been pho-tographed, and Nicoletta's partner

was a principal dancer.
"We'd just gotten off the bus
from San Jose and overheard a bus driver tell our bus driver 'Did you hear that Harvey Milk and George Moscone were killed?' Then, our driver said, 'That Harvey Milk's no loss,'" recalled Nicoletta, who said that he flinched at the homopho-bic reference bic reference.

"We jumped in a cab and heard over the radio – it had just happened. I burst into tears," he said

Nicoletta arrived home

"I was pretty catatonic," he said. "Within an hour, my three closest friends were there to con-

sole me.
"I wish I'd gone to City Hall."

#### Life after death

Harvey Milk's assassination has had a lasting effect on those who lived through it, and affects those who did not. It has inspired other gay and lesbian candidates to seek gay and lesbian candidates to seek and to win public office. Virtually every gay and lesbian elected offi-cial knows of Milk's legacy. He was, after all, San Francisco's first openly gay elected official. In the immediate aftermath of Milk's murder, Ross and Robinson were named by Milk in his famous taped "notificial will" as people

taped "political will" as people whom the mayor should appoint to succeed him, should he die in office. Milk also mentioned Kronenberg and Harry Britt.

"I wanted the job," Ross said.
"Diange could not appoint me

"Dianne could not appoint me because I was Emperor, so she put Harry in. The day we buried Harvey at sea, the ship pulled in and Harry jumped off the ship – he was going to see Dianne,"

Interestingly, Ross said, Britt never supported any of Feinstein's legislative initiatives.

Britt did not return a call seek-

Britt did not return a call seek-ing comment.

Despite being passed over by
Feinstein, Ross remains a strong
supporter and close friend. Feinstein, of course, served as mayor of San Francisco and is now the se-nior senator from California in the U.S. Senate.

the U.S. Senate.
"I've often wondered what
would have happened," Ross said,
referring to if he had been named
to the Board of Supervisors to replace Milk. "Would I still be involved with the paper? Would I
have gone off on a political path?
Who knows."

Ross was later appointed by the

Ross was later appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District Board of Directors, a seat he held for 18

"We'd never had a gay person on the board," Ross said. "I miss him terribly," Friday said of Milk. "There hasn't been anyone



Harvey Milk took this photo of young Dan Nicoletta at work in Milk's Castro Camera shop in 1976.

like him, although at times, [San Francisco Supervisor] Tom Ammiano reminds me of him.

"Harvey had his share of enemies. A lot of gays thought he was a pushy New York Jew, but he wouldn't back down. But he would wouldn't back down. But he would compromise. He knew the art of compromise.' Friday added. "He could be a bitchy queen or charm the birds out of a tree. Of all the politicians I've seen, I loved him."

Nicoletta and Ross both recalled Milk's healthy sex life.
"I think Harvey's undersexualized, generally," Nicoletta said. "He was a hot man and lived for sexual engagement. That's something we don't see enough about."

"Scott Smith was his lover,"
Ross said, "but they had a very open relationship. Harvey was screwing anything."

screwing anything."
In politics, Rivaldo said, Milk is remembered for basically creating the model of gay political activism – to be involved in the community above and beyond, to show the world that lesbians and gay men have tremendous contributions to make and for gay people to come

out.
"Harvey would just love this,"
Rivaldo said of Milk's martyr status in the LGBT community. "He
became our Martin Luther King Jr. He was the inspiration for peo-ple to come out of the closet and really impressed people in his

short term as supervisor.

"His legacy? I think the fact that it's no big deal to have lesbian and gay elected officials. He certainly was a pioneer in all that," Rivaldo said.

Some younger gays know of Milk, others aren't as aware of his

legacy.
Rivaldo told a story of a comment he overheard in a local bookstore. "Someone said, "Who's Harvey Milk?" and someone answered, 'Oh, he shot the mayor."
"There's a real influx of young

"There's a real influx of young gay people in this city to participate in politics, but they don't have a clue. It's always important to keep our relatively recent history alive and accurate," Rivaldo added

One of those working to keep Milk's history alive is Norm Halm, who moved to San Francisco in the fall of 1997 after graduating from the Ohio Institute of Pho-

tography and Technology.
"I graduated, got rid of all my stuff, and got on a Greyhound with my camera and portfolio;" Halm, 27, said in a recent interview. "I felt it would work out."

Halm, who's openly gay, did not know who Harvey Milk was when he moved to San Francisco,

but about six months later, he met

Nicoletta.
"I fell in love with his spirit," "I fell in love with his spirit, Halm said of Milk. "Friends would come from Ohio and I'd make them watch this movie, The Times of Harvey Milk. I wanted to show my friends and also my friends here."

Halm and his roommate at-

Halm and his roommate attended the opening of the Milk exhibit at the historical society

earlier this month; they rented the movie again that night. "I think a lot of younger peo-ple don't know" about Milk, Halm said. "What makes me want to show this [the movie] is basically

people my age weren't around. We have these freedoms and safety and I think it's important to be grateful to people who sacrificed so much to get us where we are."

The Milk exhibit is a great way for younger people to learn about Milk, Halm said, although he found it an emotional experience. "The first thing that got me

"The first thing that got me was the suit. It was so haunting. I wasn't sure how I felt about it. It was such a powerful thing, and sad," said Halm. "To see the actual suit was totally different. I don't know if I can describe it. It was such evidence of the hatred and violence that gay people have gone

through for so long.
"It could be any of us, if it weren't for people to fight and make our lives more accepted," he added.
Halm recalled the 20th anniversary Milk March held in the city

sary Milk March held in the city five years ago that was well-attended. Halm's mother, Jennifer, an out lesbian, visited from Ohio and went to the march with her son. "It was a beautiful moment for me, and we candlelit together. We were both very proud," Halm said.

#### Parting thoughts

Robinson, Rivaldo, Friday, and Ross each mentioned Harvey Milk's drive when he campaigned hard against Proposition 6, the Briggs initiative, in 1978. Milk ap-

Briggs initiative, in 1976. Milik appeared in debates with then-state Senator John Briggs.

"He was fighting the Briggs initiative before he was elected," Ross said. "Then he got elected and really tore Briggs apart. There were televised debates and that went down to defeat."

went down to defeat."

"When he was on the stump against Proposition 6, that was grim," Robinson said, adding that Milk received angry letters and

Milk received angry letters and phone calls.

"What always killed me is we thought Harvey would catch it on the stump. We always thought someone would pull a gun and off him." Robinson said. "I think he thought City Hall was a safe house.

"For a long time – before Harvey's assassination and AIDS – it was an exciting time to be here."

was an exciting time to be here;" Robinson added. "I've often thought if I didn't own a house, I'd leave. Harvey went, and I lost all my friends. "I don't like to think about it.

If I start to cry, I'd never stop. Harvey was my hero – I didn't have any others." ▼



Harvey had it right... "You've gotta give them hope!"
Celebrate our ever-growing strength.

Assemblyman MARK LENO

# Taxes become the new battleground over gay rights



All smiles: Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden, right, with her partner, attorney Cris Arguedas, at Migden's swearing-in ceremony in January



#### by Matthew S. Bajko

hen former state Assemblywoman Carole Migden decided to run for a seat on the Board of Equalization, a state panel that sets tax policy, most political observers saw it as a layover for the San Francisco Democrat and out les-bian until she made a bid for a

Unlike her time in the State-house, where Migden was instru-mental in advancing the gay rights movement, no one foresaw her role on the BOE as having any-thing to do with continuing that thing to do with continuing that struggle. The topic of taxes is hardly mentioned when discussing equality for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders.

But as it turns out, Migden once again is using her elective office to fight for just that: equal treatment for the LGBT community.

"It is an obscure but powerful post," said Migden. "We are making sure we are bringing a measure of equity and fairness to it."

Next month, the state tax

Next month, the state tax board, with Migden as chair, is set to rule in favor of changing how to rue in layor of changing now the state assesses property held by domestic partners. The changes will give domestic partners the same protections straight married couples receive when one of the partners dies.

Currently, if a couple holds

Currently, if a couple holds property together and one of them dies, the state will reassess half of the property. In the case of married couples, if one spouse passes away, the state does not reassess the property. In effect, as a gay or lesbian is mourning the loss of their loved one, they also receive a sizable tax bill.

For many, it jeopardizes their ability to stay in their homes. This is especially true for older couples living on fixed incomes and they

living on fixed incomes and they often are forced into selling their houses when they cannot afford to pay the new tax rate set on their

nouses when they cannot anoth to pay the new tax rate set on their property.

"The point is, like a lot of things that have to do with benefits and opportunities regarding the community, it is a matter of getting the word out and letting domestic partners be aware of their property rights and making sure surviving spouses will have a set of opportunities that are afforded to heterosexual partners," said Migden. "That is why we have tried over the years to register domestic partners. You want to let people know about this."

With more than 20,000 registered domestic partners in the

With more than 20,000 registered domestic partners in the state, the new tax codes will benefit thousands of gay households and give couples peace of mind that either they or their partner will be protected in the future.

"When we talk about domestic partners, people have this idea of

"When we talk about domestic partners, people have this idea of couples and marriage rights affecting young people, not old people. This affects another age group and further expands domestic partner rights," said Migden.

The BOE's move comes on the heels of a similar type of ruling enacted last fall by then-San Francisco Assessor and Recorder Doris Ward. Under Ward's ruling, the assessor's office decided to treat

assessor's office decided to treat-domestic partners the same as married couples and not reassess properties when one of the part-ners died.

The ruling has already benefit-ed a dozen domestic partners and current Assessor Mabel Teng has formed a committee to look at how to strengthen and expand the original decision. Teng has also faced down threats from conservatives who say they intend to sue the city over the ruling, as well as lawyers for the BOE who insisted Teng rescind the ruling when she took office in January.

took office in January.

The changes being pushed by
Migden do not specifically address
the legality of San Francisco's ruling, but once enacted by the BOE
would make the city's ruling irrelevant. Conservative groups have also threatened to take the BOE to

also threatened to take the BOE to court over the rule changes.

And the state's assessors, for the most part, have balked at accepting the rule changes, complaining they would result in lost revenue for the state and be a burden on their workloads.

"If you don't rile people up then you probably haven't done much," responded Migden when asked about the opposition to the proposed changes.

The fight at the state level mirrors smaller, less noticed fights over equity in property taxes at the city and county level. This month, Alameda became the fifth Bay Area city to exempt domestic Bay Area city to exempt domestic partners from the city's property transfer tax. Once the new law goes into effect in July, Alameda will join San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and San Jose in granting this tax protection method to do-

mestic partners.

And the move gives steam to gay couples working to have more cities and counties enact such leg-islation. When a domestic part-nership is formed, or terminated, or when one partner dies, the transferred value of the partners' home is taxed by cities and is in addition to county transfer taxes

addition to county transfer taxes following reassessment.

The transfer fees can result into several thousand dollars for partners owning a home for many years when one partner dies. By not imposing the taxes, gay couples argue the surviving spouse will no longer face having to sell their home to may the taxes.

will no longer face having to sell their home to pay the taxes.

While the BOE's expected move hasn't gained much national attention, partly because the reassessment of property taxes is unique to the state and governed by Proposition 13, which severely limits yearly tax hikes, tax inequities faced by gay and lesbian couples is gaining some national exposure. exposure

According to published reports, U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-Florida), the only Democratic presidential candidate who opposes both same-sex marriage and civil unions, has begun pushing for tax breaks on

has begun pushing for tax breaks on health insurance coverage for gay couples and other domestic partners. Straight married couples already receive the tax break.

In the meantime, the BOE ends its public comment period on its proposed changes July 9. Once approved, the new rules are expected to be in place by October or November.

During the Pride Parade, Migden will be handing out buttons that read "Equity should not be taxing" in order to raise awareness of

ing" in order to raise awareness of the proposed changes. "We want to have some fun with it," she said.

Something not often equated with taxes. ▼

# State's first out assemblymen on the job

by Joe Dignan

efore Mayor Willie Brown appointed Mark Leno to Susan Leal's vacant seat on the San Francisco Board of Super-visors in 1998, Brown had visors in 1998, Brown had promised to appoint another Latina lesbian to the board to replace

her.
"But after two months," Leno joked, "he gave up and appointed

joked, "he gave up and appointedme."

The appointment launched Leno's political career. An openly gay man, on the board Leno worked for transgender rights (he authored the highly publicized legislation which gave transgender city employees full health benefits), medical cannabis (Leno's partner, Douglas Jackson, died of partner, Douglas Jackson, died of AIDS complications in 1990, but before his death Leno was left to stand on street corners to buy marijuana for him), and afford-able housing, where Leno spent two years crafting a compromise between developers and housing rights activists.

After five years on the San Francisco board, during which he slowly asserted his independence from the mayor who had appointed him, Leno ran for the state Assembly. Brown backed another candidate. Leno won the Assembly race in November 2002, after a by face in November 2002, after a viciously contested primary against another gay man, Harry Britt. Leno and John Laird of Santa Cruz, who was elected to the Assembly at the same time, became the first openly gay men



Assemblyman Mark Leno

ever - in the California Legisla-

On the night he won, Leno attributed the delay, again self-deprecatingly, to the AIDS epidemic. He said that the disease killed many of the country's most promising leaders. Sitting in Leno's new top-floor

office in San Francisco's State Building on Golden Gate Avenue,

Building on Golden Gate Avenue, the panoramic view looks out across the 13th Assembly District, the eastern part of San Francisco.

Leno, 51, is dressed, as he almost always is, in a suit. His idea of casual clothes is a blue blazer, button down shirt, and jeans. His thick mane of jet-black hair is perfectly in place.

fectly in place.

Sitting in one of the leather chairs, arranged around a coffee table in his large but sparse new office, Leno said, "At almost age 50, that appointment to the Board of Supervisors was my first full time job."

"I don't make a good employee," he said. "With hindsight I

know that I'm a small business

guy."
Leno had come to San Francisco in 1977, at age 25, after dropping out of rabbinical school.
"I was out," he said, "and there were no gay rabbis."

But rather than looking for a

job, Leno started a business, Budget Signs, which he still owns, in a tiny 500 square foot space on

Geary Boulevard.

"It was a hot time to be in San
Francisco," Leno said. "I had a lot
of dates, but hardly ever the same

Outside his office, in the recep-tion room for the suite, are the original drawings for the San Francisco LGBT Community Francisco LGBT Community Center, which he brought with him in his move from City Hall. Leno started on the board of the Community Center Project in 1996, and is widely credited with raising a big part of the money for the new building, which opened in March 2002 in March 2002.

in March 2002.

In his official biography he lists
the LGBT Community Center
Project, Haight-Ashbury Community Services, the American
Jewish Congress, Mobilization
Against AIDS, and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce as
postprofits habou worked for

But he said he was often on the boards of three or four organiza-tions at once. "I discovered I had a facility for fundraising," he said.

"After that, everybody wanted

But Leno said that during the time he was raising money for nonprofits, and running his sign shop, California's other new gay assemblyman, Laird, was already mayor of Santa Cruz.

#### John Laird

The Santa Cruz City Council named Laird mayor in 1983. The move made him one of the first

openly gay mayors in the U.S.
Laird, 53, was first elected to
the City Council in 1981, but had started in politics, in earnest, as a delegate for George McGovern at the 1972 Democratic convention in Miami Beach. At that convention Hubert Humphrey staged a floor fight, demanding propor-tional representation.

"It would have unseated half of the delegation," Laird recalled.

A key rules committee vote put

McGovern's delegates back on the floor. "It was one of the most exciting things that had happened to me in my life," Laird said. He was

Laird said he was drawn to pol-

actions and the was drawn to politics because of the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movement.

He grew up in Vallejo, and was among the first classes at the new University of California campus in Santa Cruz. He said he did his understanding the size of the history and the said to the civil results. undergraduate thesis on the his ry of water development in Cali-

"I didn't know it was a career move," he said.

Laird, a native Californian, said that water policy has always been a



Assemblyman John Laird

fascination of his. His freshman fascination of his. His freshman legislation includes a new bill, AB1015, which would, for the first time – "unbelievably," said Laird – make counties take water problems into account when doing general growth planning. Laird general growth planning. Lairc moved the bill to the inactive file but as a two-year bill it's expected to be heard next year.

Laird has also worked on gay-

related issues and managed, in Santa Cruz, in 1985, "five or six years before San Francisco," to get domestic partnership benefits for gays and lesbians. He used what he called a "stealth strategy," working the provision into city coning the provision into city con-tracts that did not go on the bal-

"We didn't have a hot-button fight," he said.

Laird said he is currently next page

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## **Voice of the Castro**

Bevan Dufty blazes own trail at City Hall

by Zak Szymanski

upervisor Bevan Dufty is so gay, his office has a discoball.

ball.
Granted, the mirror-tiled dance globe is an award from the San Francisco Late Night Coalition for his efforts to help keep the city's nightlife alive. Still, his office décor – including an extensive collection of personal mementos and history books. and history books – speaks to his personality: campy and intellectual, alternating with emotional gushiness and a passionate tenor for political progress and civil

rights.

He is in the middle of reading the biography of Barbara Jordan, the first Southern African American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mobility issues from multiple sclerosis, a disease she kept private, meant that she consistently staked out the same seat on the House floor – causing people to speculate that she was trying to

speculate that she was trying to win favor. It's a great lesson, said Dufty, about not jumping to conclusions about a person's motivations. A lesson, he said, he hopes he applies as well as garners.

Dufty, 48, got his political start in the 1970s, working for U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm (D-New York), the first black woman elected to Congress. His San Francisco political credits in-San Francisco political credits include serving as chief of staff to former Supervisor Susan Leal, and

later, as director of neighborhood services for Mayor Willie Brown. He is fresh off last year's win for District 8 supervisor, a race that pitted several LGBT candidate against one another in a bat-tle to represent the Castro and Noe Valley. Although other cam-paigns questioned his ties to Brown, who has lost much of his popularity in the community, Dufty said his loyalty is to his neighborhood, and he welcomes anyone with issues to stop by and address them.

Back to Barbara Jordan.

"She had what she called an 'ethic of love' in public life,' mused Dufty, his eyes growing wide with excitement. "I like that."

It's applicable to so many things."

Jordan, he said, did not see her Jordan, he said, did not see ner political opponents as adversaries, but rather, as fellow candidates. Running against several LGBT people for office, said Dufty, solidified his belief against negative campaigning. It also strengthened his support for instant runoff voting, which has yet to be implemented.

mented.
"I support IRV, which surprises people," he said. "But I really feel that the ugliness of campaign-



upervisor Bevan Dufty, right, speaks after being sworn in by Mayor Willie Brown, left.

ing dissuades the public from wanting to engage. IRV means you have to speak to the issues rather than launch personal attacks, because the candidate I attack could be a voter's first choice, and that voter may have wanted me as their second choice, but not

me as their second choice, our like anymore."

The "ethic of love" is something Dufty wants to apply to all populations, from the queer youth in the Castro to the gay men involved with the crystal meth scene. He is particularly moved by Openhouse, the LGBT senior housing program that hopes to secure land where the Fell Street offramp of the Central Freeway came

down.
"I will ask people to judge my tenure," he said, "based on how I can help that project."

He feels a personal connection to the late Harvey Milk, as a New York Jew, a politician with an affinity for many different populations, and an openly gay supervisor elected at the age of 47. Some would point out that Milk was more progressive than the was more progressive than the more politically moderate Dufty, and Dufty himself would agree. But he strives to be himself, he said, as Milk did, and to keep the

door to his office open because "I'm not afraid. I'm not going to hide from people."

Dufty likes to joke that he was "raised by lesbians," as it was his friendship with the openly lesbian Leal that gave him the openly lesbian. Leal that gave him the opening resolar come out as gay. Although he has always "held lesbians on a pedestal," he said, he was impressed when he went to a party at the lesbian bar the Lexington Club last year, hosted by Pride Parade

grand marshals Shawna Virago

and Christopher Lee.
"I swear, about 25 percent of
the crowd were FTMs (female-tomale transgenders)," said Dufty. "I
thought, "What an incredible community, to teach me that there's this fluidity of identity. It makes

this fluidity of identity. It makes me think about things a lot."
Newly single, Dufty is trying to strike a social balance so that his entire life is not framed by politics. His campaign, which involved social visits to various communities of faith, made him more spiritual, he said, and he has class lightly for the said. more spiritual, he said, and he has since joined Glide Memorial Church and plans to join other houses of worship.

"It's a wonderful thing," he said, "to think about things that are bigger than you."

Part of his continuing outreach to various communities is speak.

to various communities is speak-

to various communities is speaking with school children about
working in government and fulfilling their own potential.

Of course, those lectures are
not entirely dry or motivational.
Bevan Dufty is so gay, he can't
keep popular music out of his political conversations. While at St. litical conversations. While at St. John's Parish School, for instance, he likened some political relation-ships to the rival singing careers of Missy Elliott and Lil' Kim.

Letters adorn his bulletin board from those students, most of which praise him for being "hip" and "open" and for making his dreams a reality.

his dreams a reality.

"You taught me that I should
not be afraid to be myself. I'm glad
that you were open to us and told
us about your childhood," wrote
eighth grader Jose Torees. "I think Lil' Kim is way better than Missy Elliott." ▼

Assemblymen

previous page

"working behind the scenes" to make sure that the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program stays

fully funded.

"It's one of the few life or death things in the budget," he said, "and I think we have a good chance."

**LGBT** caucus

Both Leno and Laird are members of the state's new LGBT Legislative Caucus, which has three other members: veteran state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Moniator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Moni-ca), who was California's first gay or lesbian legislator; Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego); and As-semblywoman Jackie Goldberg

(D-Los Angeles).
With support from Equality
California, an LGBT lobbying
group, the caucus is pushing for
Goldberg's AB205, the Domestic
Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act. It would give California's
registered domestic partners nearly all the rights and benefits, and
the responsibilities that married
couples have.

couples have.

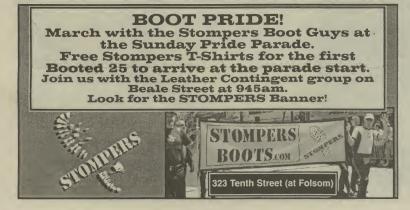
Another bill, AB17, would require all contractors doing business with the state to give the same benefits to domestic partners as

spouses.

Leno's AB196, the gender equality bill, would protect people from discrimination on the basis of gender stereotypes.

All have passed the Assembly and are awaiting passage by Senate Committees.

ate Committees



# Out in the underground

## Radulovich queers the urban landscape

by Zak Szymanski

s a representative of the LGBT-friendly city of San Francisco, Tom Radulovich, with his global views and environ-mental slant, sometimes wonders whether his political career is gay enough.

enough.

The openly gay 35-year-old has served as an elected official to the Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors since 1996, where his duties include influencing internal and regional policy as it relates to neighborhood access to mass transportations.

transportation.

And that's just one of his jobs As an activist and advocate with

As an activist and advocate with degrees in architecture and urban planning, he serves on several city and regional committees that seek to beautify and diversify San Francisco and beyond.

It all started "accidentally," when he appeared at a Board of Supervisors meeting in 1992 seeking a spot on the Central Freeway Task Force. Another man with a similar name had appeared the similar name had appeared the week before, and the supes "remembered" Radulovich and rewarded him for his tenacity.

warded him for his tenacity.

That mistaken assumption about his determination turned out to be correct. Radulovich has been a driving force behind ensuring not only that traffic solutions are not limited to blighted tions are not limited to blighted overpasses, but that residents dictate how they want their neighborhoods to look and operate. Now, with the Central Freeway coming down, pockets of San Francisco are planning for urban renewal, with green grass, local businesses, and affordable housing set to surround Octavia. ing set to surround Octavia Boulevard.

"It's exciting," said Radulovich, 11 years after he first took on the project. "It's the biggest physical change in the city that I can take partial credit for."

There are other living monuments to Radulovich's work. Serving the BART station areas of 16th Street, 24th Street, Glen Park, and Powell, he took responsibility for a city that was largely ignored by BART, and insisted that San Franciscans deserved remodeling (like the new 16th Street station), cleanliness, and better access. And withliness, and better access. And with-in the BART system itself, he pushed through employment protections on the basis of gender identity, expanded the employer's domestic partnership benefits, and enlisted Community United Against Violence to train BART po-

Against violence to train BART po-lice in transgender sensitivity issues. Another outside project he's involved with is the affordable housing oriented Housing Action Coalition, which he helped to found. Unlike other groups, which tend to be small and built around a consistent ideology, this group is a large joint effort of developers, environmentalists, businesses, and tenants that "doesn't agree on most things," he said, "but works together for the things on which

we do agree."

And then there's the District 8 race for supervisor. As a resident of the area that includes the Castro, Noe Valley, and Dolores Park, his attempt last year to replace Mark Leno as the city representa-tive for the queer-heavy district may have been unsuccessful (the seat went to current Supervisor Bevan Dufty), but it was by no means a defeat. Not only did his grassroots candidacy earn the en-

dorsement of Leno and several prominent media outlets and political groups, but it also served the debate process well, he said, bringing forward new issues that had not previously been addressed.

"There were a lot of candidate forums, and after a while, you'd start to hear the things you said coming from other candidates," said Radulovich. "It made me realize that instead of being opponents, we were all part of a conversation. If you get into politics for the right reasons, it's not because you think you're the only one who can do the job, but because you've got ideas and values worth bringing to the table. So when you hear others adopt those ideas, then you've won... even if you've lost."

Being gay is a non-issue for him in elections, and it tends to be that way for him in general. An out and proud gay man, he doesn't shy away from gay issues, but rather tends to have "a sort of queer generational sensibility," he said.

"Like a lot of Gen X-ers I'm working from the assumption that we're not monolithic. We're not only multicultural, but we're also bisexual and transgender. The

bisexual and transgender. The bright line between gay and non-gay just doesn't exist."

Still, he credits pioneers like Harvey Milk and those that followed with the work they did to make gay politicians acceptable in the first place.

"I'm thankful that I came out when and where I did" said

when and where I did," said Radulovich, who unlike some of the more "genetically engineered politicians" prefers one-on-one conversations over shaking hands

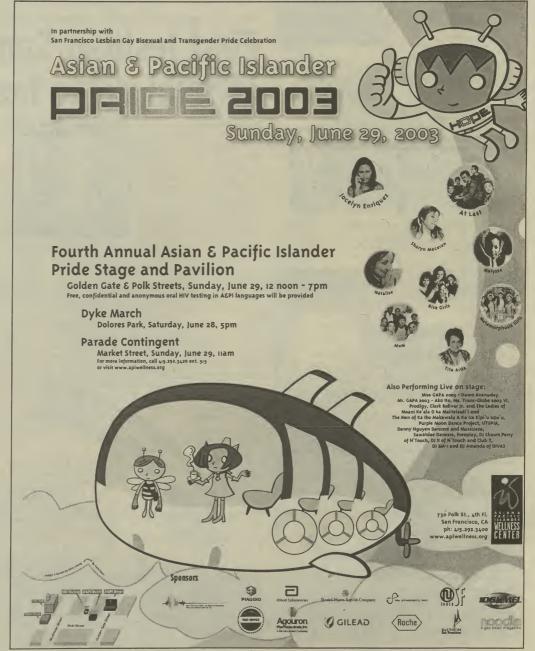
and kissing babies.

"There are parts of the politician thing I can't do; waving to a crowd is a little weird for me. I love the problem solving aspect of it, but I don't really thrive on the conventional politician stuff

conventional politician stuff.
"But we've created a space for the unconventional politician in San Francisco," he said, "and I think that's great."



BART board member Tom Radulovich



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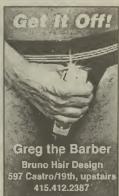
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# **Gays transform North Bay town's politics**

by Matthew S. Bajko

our years ago Gary Cloutier's face was all over Vallejo. Looking to prove wrong the naysayers who said he couldn't win a seat on the City Council, especially while running against an incumbent, the San Francisco transplant went against political tradition and put his picture on his campaign signs.

"That never had been done be-

"That never had been done before in the history of the town," said
Cloutier, a civil litigation attorney.
"It gave me added visibility."
If that hadn't upset the political status quo in the bayside city,
the real shocker would come on
election night. The lawyer whose
motto is "push the limits" beat all
the odds and emerged as the wijn. the odds and emerged as the win-

"I only won by 300 votes," he recalled. "The headline in the paper said my victory was a stunner. No one knew who I was when the campaign started."



Valleio City Council member

His victory night wasn't the first time Cloutier had made headlines. Nor would it be his last. In 1999, Cloutier attracted media attention while representing an HIV-positive man suing the University of California. He obtained a \$166,000 jury verdict against a surgeon who would not against a surgeon who would not perform a shoulder replacement surgery on the man because of the risk for infection.

During his council race, although he never hid his sexual

though he never hid his sexual orientation, it was not reported that the single Cloutier was gay. Cloutier said none of the reporters covering the campaign ever bothered to ask him about it.

But after the election that would change. The San Francisco Chronicle ran a front page story about the migration of gays and lesbians, priced out of the city's housing market, to Vallejo. Featured in the article was none other than Cloutier. The local papers than Cloutier. The local papers jumped on the story, finally re-porting what most people already

knew.
"I was so-called outed though I was out to the people who I knew," said Cloutier. "The reaction was like 'so what?' more or

During his first term, Cloutier has pushed to see the city adopt domestic partner benefits for city employees and helped to appoint openly gay and lesbian city com-

page 60 ▶

# First lesbian Santa Cruz official off to fast start

by Cynthia Laird

t's taken a long time, but in November 2002, the first out lesbian was elected in Santa Cruz County. CeCe Pinheiro won a seat on the Santa Cruz City School District Board of Trustees. School District Board of Trustees. Pinheiro, who worked in the district for many years, now helps govern the city's schools, and she has started her tenure with an emphasis on equality for all, especially LGBT students and teachers.

"We've had John Laird forever" the city lamphing referring to

er," she said, laughing, referring to the former mayor of Santa Cruz who last year became one of two openly gay men elected to the state Assembly. "We had no other



nta Cruz school board member CeCe Pinheiro

out gay and lesbian candidates."
Pinheiro and Laird served as
grand marshals of this year's Santa
Cruz Pride Parade, held June 1.

and educated in Santa Cruz. Her father worked as a custodian for the school district for many years, and Pinheiro worked as a career development specialist until she decided to run for an open seat on the school board. She was part of a gay and lesbian task force that gay and lesbian task force that trained principals, vice principals, and counselors on issues sur-rounding sexual orientation. The district had domestic partner ben-efits "a long time ago," she said, and top school administrators sent letters to staff addressing ho-monthohie. mophobia.

mophobia.

"You need to make teachers feel supported," Pinheiro said. "We kind of did it from the top down."

A letter from the superintendent went out that read something like, "If a kid calls a kid 'fag' on campus, you need to intervene," she said.

vene," she said.

During her employment with
the district, Pinheiro was sent to
conferences held by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, and she returned to start helping organize a local group.

That activism has continued since her election, particularly in the three high schools and two al-

the three high schools and two alternative high schools in the district. There are gay-straight alliances at the three high schools.

"After I was elected, I went to all of them and said, 'I'm your out board member;" she explained. "I definitely say 'gay' whenever I have an opportunity."

During her campaign last year, Pinheiro faced three opponents for the open, at large seat. She said there wasn't a lot of homophobia directed at her during the race, and attributes that to her lifelong residency in Santa Cruz.

"People know who you are,

"People know who you are, and they get beyond that. I'm grown up now and don't have different colors in my hair," she said, laughing at the recollection of her younger days. "I had the wife of an

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# East Bay gay and lesbian politicos are creating a sense of community

by Matthew S. Bajko

nlike San Francisco, where nlike San Francisco, where the city's gay political power has largely been geographi-cally centered around distinct neighborhoods, the gay communi-ties in the East Bay are more woven throughout their various cities. This presents unique challenges to gays and lesbians who opt to run for political office and can't stump in one Ziu code, expecting to ride

in one Zip code, expecting to ride to victory on election night. It also often means these candidates have to reach out to a broad base of constituents in order to muster enough votes to win.

"In the beginning of the era of having out elected officials, the premise was focus on a geographic area that has a predominant gay presence. If you look at the history of Harvey Milk, he ran for office several times. The way he got elected was the creation of a dis-trict that was predominantly a gay-oriented district," said Rebec-ca Kaplan, an out lesbian serving on the Alameda Contra Costa Transit District board. "The assumption in the early years of the gay political movement was gay people would take power by elect-ing gay people. It was a perfectly appropriate tactic to use at the time, but I think we are beyond ready for new tactics."

Kaplan, 32, a Green Party member, was appointed in mid-



AC Transit board member Rebecca Kaplan

2002 to fill an unexpired term on the transit board; she was elected to a full term last November. She

to a full term last November. Sne represents 1.5 million people. When Peralta Community College Board member Darryl Moore ran for office, he won not by simply galvanizing the gay community, but by appealing to the community at large. He said he sees his being in elective office as a way to serve not only as a role model for other gay African Americans but to break down gay stereotypes.
"I do believe the African Amer-

ican community is fairly conserv ative when it comes to gay and les-bian issues and acceptance. It is very important the African Amer-



Peralta College board member Darryl Moore

ican community see there are African Americans who are openly gay and can be successful in so iy gay and can be successful in so-ciety and play a major role in pol-icy development," said Moore, 45, who lives with his domestic part-ner in Berkeley.

When Kaplan ran (unsuccess-

fully) in 2000 for the citywide seat on the Oakland City Council, her campaign consultants advised her not to talk about being gay. Nor did they think it wise for her to speak to groups opposed to her views. Disregarding their counsel, she stumped everywhere she could and with every group that would listen to her.

While she lost the race, Kaplan said she proved that gay people

can be passionate advocates for not only LGBT issues but on everything from housing and transit to the environment and

You get to the point where You get to the point where you have queer people in power not only as leaders of queer issues but other issues as well and other constituencies. You don't have to have a geographic focus to elect out officials," she said. "Someone who is out can run in districts that are not mightly dueer and still are not majority queer and still win. That is going on throughout the Bay Area. But it is especially pronounced in the East Bay."

Whether it's Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, or Emeryville, gay candidates have overcome those obstacles and found a seat at the table. And once there, they have begun to create a distinct sense of place for the gay (and straight)

place for the gay (and straight) woters they represent.

"I feel I represent a new coming of age for the residents of Emeryville who are demanding more services that benefit them," said Ruth Atkin, an out lesbian who won her seat on the City Council in November 1999. "I Council in November 1999. "I cotted the idea in my comparison." floated the idea in my campaign literature in 1999 for there to be autonomous neighborhood councils that would get together and talk about the issues affecting

talk about the issues affecting their neighborhood. It was an or-ganizing tool I saw where people could get together." Wedged between Oakland and Berkeley and sitting along the Bay, Emeryville is an often forgotten town. Commuters on Interstate 80 which but coming to and from San whiz by it coming to and from San Francisco. Recently, the town's identity has been tied to big box retail such as Ikea.

But people do call Emeryville home, and a growing number of those residents are professional gays and lesbians attracted to the town's loft developments and, compared to other Bay Area cities, reasonably priced real estate. Atkin, 45, and her domestic partner of five and a half years, moved

to the city for that very reason.
Like any Bay Area city, gays and lesbians are part of the town's fabric. Finding them may be a bit harder compared to San Francis-co. Still, they are present and are having an impact in their own

"The question of being openly gay is different in Emeryville. It is hard if you have a San Francisco perspective to understand the scene here," said Atkin. "It is not so much focused on issue-oriented politics. Most people in Emeryville think sexual orientation isn't a criteria for how well you can govern the city."

Atkin did push to have the city offer benefits to the domestic partners of city employees. But otherwise, she said gay matters just haven't been much of an issue. Last year when she served as the town's mayor, no one questioned having an out lesbian in the role. This year, Atkin is vice mayor and her ideas on how to form

and her ideas on how to offin neighborhood groups are resonat-ing with gay and straight residents alike. Since she won office, several groups have formed, bringing people together socially.

At the same time, these groups are creating a very grassroots po-litical structure that Atkin, who is up for re-election in November,



Emeryville City Council member Ruth Atkin

and other candidates can tap into for support.

for support.

"Since I got elected, more people now are talking about livability and quality of life issues," she said. "To the city's credit we are undergoing a huge beautification project along a street that is also used as a railroad spur."

Once completed, the street will provide a safe. landscaped area for

provide a safe, landscaped area for residents to walk and bike. It will create a sense of place in their community. Something gays and lesbians have always longed for in

the places they live.
"I felt the best way to try to make changes, instead of fighting city hall, was to join it," said Atkin.

Hayward

Kevin Dowling joined the power brokers in Hayward's City Hall in June 1998. Ever since, he has fought not only for gay rights but to protect the interests of residents over those of business leaders.

"Hayward has a strong gay community. But it is not like San Francisco where all the candidates talk about gay issues," said Dowling, 40. "It's one of the issues but it is way down on the list."

With Dowling on the City

is way down on the list."
With Dowling on the City
Council, the gay community has
found a voice and an advocate to
turn to for support. When it came
time to build a community center in town, Dowling helped raise private donations for the project. Two years ago the Lighthouse Community Center opened its doors and has been a success ever since.

"If people are new to the com-munity or new to coming out, it gives people a place to go to get regives people a place to go to get re-sources that is safe. It is not a bar, it is alcohol and drug free," he said. "It has not gotten a lot of city funding yet, but I want it to in the future." For the first time this year, Dowl-

ing convinced the city to appropriate funds for the town's gay Pride event. Gay Pride beat out a Shakespeare festival for the \$5,000 and joins a long list of cultural events the

joins a long list of cultural events the city gives money too, such as Cinco de Mayo and a blues festival.

"The gay community had never gotten anything except for a local youth group that got funding for counseling," said Dowling.

For years Hayward has been a locus for numerous LGBT events,

from Imperial Court competi-tions and leather events to a gay prom for high school students. The town has had several gay bars in its downtown area for decades.

in its downtown area for usedaes.
"A lot of gay groups do more
things down here than they do in
Oakland. I think it is harder to get
people excited in Oakland and people excited in Oakland and Berkeley because folks are so close

next page



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### **East Bay**

previous page

to San Francisco," said Dowling.
"Folks here are more interested in building a community. The Light-house is booked every night with different groups meeting there. It is easier to organize out here then in other cities because we are a little more removed from the draw



Oakland City Council member

If Danny Wan has his way, that will change in Oakland. The openly gay City Council member is pushing for the city to build a gay neighborhood.

"I want Oakland to become the gay mecca of the East Bay. The demographics are there and we are centrally located," said the single, 39-year-old Wan, one of the few gay Asian Americans to hold public office. "There is no reason why gay and lesbian developers can't come in and make investments



Hayward City Council member Kevin Dowling, center, at the opening of the city's LGBT community center in 2000.

into a gay neighborhood."

Wan was first appointed to the City Council in 2000. He was elected to a full term last November.

do a full term last November.

Wan has already formed a working group of gay business people to start the planning process. This fall the city's Economic Development Agency will try to determine just how many LGBT people there are in the area and what amenities those people would like to see in a gay district.

"If we identify an area in Oakland and get this city to partner with developers to get a concentration of retail and commercial properties, we could target gays and lesbians. It would be a big moneymaker and a draw," said Wan. "We have such potential for creating an activity center of entercreating an activity center of enter-

tainment and business and a living environment for those who prefer to live in a much more gay-focused neighborhood. There is no reason

neighborhood. There is no reason why people need to go to San Francisco to get a drink in a place that is marketed to gay people."

Wan likens his vision for a gay neighborhood to that found in West Hollywood. With two gay bars already located in Oakland, as well as several gay owned businesses. Wan argues there is proof the LGBT community is out there and familiar with Oakland. The city's hugely popular annual gay Pride event is also another indicator that

event is also another indicator that a sizable gay community does exist.

"There is enough of a population in the East Bay, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. If anything there is a demand there we

are not meeting," he said. "Anecdotally, we know there are several very gay and lesbian centered neighborhoods in Oakland."

Along with West Oakland and the Temescal and Rockridge areas, Adams Point and Lakeshore-Grand Avenue in Wan's council district are already unofficial hubs

district are already unofficial hubs for the city's gay community.

"I don't think a lot of people feel what is missing is a residential focus. But what is missing and what Danny is trying to touch on is a commercial focus: a gay bookstore and coffeehouse and that kind of thing," said Kaplan, who lives in West Oakland. "What I do hear over and over again from people is 'We hate to have to waste time driving to this place and that place. Why not have more enter-

tainment venues in Oakland?' We need to look at that."

But building a gay mecca won't happen overnight, Wan readily admits. And the process could become mired in controversy if the city opts to take people's property through eminent domain, something Wan does not hesitate to suggest could happen. Though he said it is more likely the city would try to get landowners to sell the land or find city-owned land that could be ideally suited for the project.
"We don't really have a well-organized infrastructure for gay folks.

ganized infrastructure for gay folks. Getting a neighborhood would be good for that respect," said Wan.

#### Berkeley

It is not just Wan who is working on giving a there there for his city's gay residents. Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthing-ton would also like to see a more visible presence to his city's gay

community.

If not a gay neighborhood like It not a gay neighborhood hee Wan has in mind for Oakland, then an ideal solution could be a central gathering spot where LGBT nonprofits are located. To that end, Worthington has been working with the Pacific Center for Human Growth with its exfor Human Growth with its expansion plans.

No concrete plans have been solidified, but one possibility would be building an East Bay community center, housing not only a collection of LGBT agencies but also people. Worthington said residential housing could be part of the project.

of the project.
"The Pacific Center would be "The Pacific Center would be the anchor tenant. The idea is to have different groups have their offices there and housing as well. One of the biggest needs in Berke-

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# Gays' electoral wins change suburban politics

by Matthew S. Bajko

n 1984 gays hit suburbia like

never before.
In November of that year, Tom Nolan won a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, becoming the first openly gay politician to hold a truly suburban elective office.



Former San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan

While it wasn't a secret during the race that Nolan was gay, he didn't publicly speak about his sexual orientation until after the election. Before being sworn into office, he came out in a story in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Overnight, Nolan and his partner became a media sensation. Papers from around the country picked up the story and focused

picked up the story and focused

attention on gays moving out of urban cores and into the suburbs. "We were viewed as a curiosity for quite a while," recalled Nolan, 58, who now serves as the executive director of Project Open Hand. "My partner and I went to events as a couple. It was very new

to most people."

Things have never been the

same since.

Openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are running for, and winning, seats on city councils, school boards, county boards, and county political committees across the country. On the Peninsula, gay men and lesbians are following Nolan's lead and serving their communities as out and proud politicians.

"My being gay hasn't been much of a secret in this commu-nity," said Rich Gordon, 54, who



San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon

Mateo County Board of Educa-tion in 1992 and was elected in 1997 to serve on the county Board of Supervisors. "I have always experienced a level of acceptance here that has been fairly high. My partner and I have always been included. It's never been an issue."



San Mateo County Board of Education member Rhonda Ceccato

South San Francisco resident Rhonda Ceccato said her experi-ence running for elective office has been much the same. When the out lesbian ran for a city council seat in her hometown, her being gay just wasn't an issue. While she lost that race, finishing last out of seven candidates, it wasn't for being a lesbian. She was outspent.

Nor did her sexual orientation become an issue when she ran and von a seat last year on the county

"The people I was running against knew me and knew my partner. In South City it is not that important," said Ceccato, 49, an executive director of a nonprofit sub-stance abuse agency. "There are a ecutive director of a nonprofit sub-stance abuse agency. "There are a lot of us who live here very quietly and are almost invisible. At Home Depot and Costco you can always tell there are plenty of us. These are the suburbs. The attitude is people mind their own business really. "Ne one is hidjurg it por make."

"No one is hiding it nor making an issue of it," added Ceccato.
"We blend in. I never know if that is a good thing or a bad thing, frankly."

South Bay and However, However, South Bay and Peninsula politics have flared at times with homophobic attacks on candidates. Gordon's opponent during a school board race attempted to turn his being gay into a liability by making oblique references to it in a mailer.

"My comparent trade to raise it

"My opponent tried to raise it as an issue. She made a vague reference to family values but most of the public didn't catch it," he said.

Openly gay San Jose City Council member Ken Yeager, 50, currently the only out gay politician in Santa Clara County, did endure an intense barrage of ho-mophobic attacks when he ran for a state Assembly seat in March 1996. At the time, Yeager was a member of the San Jose Community College Board.
"It was sort of the classic hit

piece against gay people. I was being accused of being anti-woman, anti-police," recalled Yeager. "In a way you become like a deer in headlights.

How do you try to respond to that kind of attack?"

In the end Yeager would place second and the homophobic opponent would place dead last in the race. Despite the attacks, he easily won re-election that November to his seat on the college board.

his seat on the college board.
"Everybody was so horrified that
this attack happened. When the
stakes are a little higher, people are a
little bit more aggressive," he said.
He would face the same type of
hatred when he decided to jump
into the 2000 San Jose City Council
race. During the March primary
contest, six candidates slugged its contest, six candidates slugged it out, with Yeager and another candidate ending up in a run-off elec-tion that November. While the gay issue was absent from the primary

race, the antigay posturing reared its head during the general election.

"It was nothing overt, but everything she passed out made it clear I was gay. She was trying to walk that line trying to tell people. wask that line trying to tell people I was gay but not coming across as antigay," said Yeager. "It wasn't anything as bad as the Assembly race but it was very disheartening to see it all come back up again."

Her strategy seemed to be to convince voters that Yeager would

convince voters that Yeager would be a one-issue candidate and only talk about gay issues.

"People take city government very seriously. They want someone who will be like them and represent them," he said. "If they are not around gay people they can believe the stereotypes. Maybe they feared I would go to the council meeting in a dress and swish around or whatever.

swish around or whatever.
"I believed as soon as you are able to elect one gay person then finally this kind of antigay attacks would stop. People would realize



San Jose City Council member Ken Yeager

they weren't effective. And I won that race." And winning is what matters. With Nolan seated at the table, he pushed to add sexual orientation to the county's non-discrimina-tion laws and fought to provide domestic partner benefits for county employees before San Francisco ever did.

"It was easier there. Everything here in San Francisco is under such a microscope. Down there, such a microscope. Down there, we were under the radar," explained Nolan. "I came into the city to help [former city Supervisor] Harry Britt here in San Francisco to pass the measure."

When Nolan became president of the county board in 1987, he became the first openly gay person in California to be president of a board of supervisors.

"That was my little footnote. It opened more doors than it ever

opened more doors than it ever closed," he said. "I also was the only closed," he said. "I also was the only one with a full-time job and full-time salary so I had the luxury to go to all the gay Pride parades. Sometimes I was the only elected official there, gay or straight."

Gordon has worked to implement an equal benefits ordinance similar to San Francisco's and Yeager is making for purpling San Joseph Gallows with As

pushing San Jose to follow suit. As ne gains more confidence over time in her position, Ceccato is hoping to bring more attention to issues of im-portance to LGBT students.

She has already met with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educa-tion Network and plans to address the issues transgender teens face in school.

By stepping up to the plate and being at the table, they are advancing gay rights and setting a precedent, making it that much easier for younger LGBT people to follow in their footsteps.

"As gays and lesbians we do have a responsibility. We are role models and procedure and the second to the context of the second to the

a responsibility. We are role models and people need to be educated about who we are," said Ceccato.

"At the end of the day it goes back to the stuff Harvey Milk talked about. Us being out and at the table where all the decisions are made," said Gordon. "I think it particularly helps those who are in high school and colleges struggling with who helps those who are in high school and college struggling with who they are and what they want to do, to see there really isn't any limits to the choices they can make. I think that is really how you create hope."

Yeager, who remembers Milk's rise to power, his assassination, as well as the mayhem that followed, said Harvey's legacy has always been part of his consciousness as an elected official.

been part of his consciousness as an elected official.

"We all owe him a tremendous debt," said Yeager, who added that he appreciates even more now just how outspoken and pioneering Milk was.
"I decided at a young age not to accept less in life because I was gay. If I can do anything it is to make

sure no gay person accepts less," he said. "I want to create a world in San Jose where everyone can strive to meet their potential. If seeing me as an elected official sends a message to younger gays that they should also follow their dreams then I feel like I am doing some thing important with my life." ▼



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# Reign of the rainbow

## Could this be the year San Francisco elects its first gay mayor?

by Zak Szymanski

f any big city in the country is ready for a gay mayor, it's San Francisco. With three out gay or lesbian candidates running, and the possible implementation of instant runoff voting (where a second-place candidate may wind up win-ning the office if there is no majority behind the front-runner), the chances have never been as promis-

chances have never been as promising as they are in November 2003.

The Bay Area Reporter spoke
with the openly LGBT contenders
in this year's mayor's race, who are
running 25 years after the city's
first gay elected official, Supervisor Harvey Milk, "the mayor of
Castro Street," was assassinated.
Decades after the city went down
in history for its tolerant and siin history for its tolerant and si-multaneous homophobic influences, much progress has been made on the LGBT political front. Still, it's not as easy to be an open-ly gay candidate as one might think.

#### Tom Ammiano

Even the most conservative Republican would have to be impressed by the feat that the openly gay, progressive Supervisor Tom Ammiano pulled off during the 1999 mayor's race.

Backed by a grassroots coalition of activists and everyday voters who felt their lives were tram-pled by the economic boom's rampant evictions and unaffordable rents, Ammiano entered the race as a latecomer; he wasn't even on the ballot. Yet tens of thouon the ballot. Yet tens of thousands of people managed to memorize his name, bring a pen to the polls, and write him in as their choice. The result? He beat out two of the leading candidates, giving Mayor Willie Brown a run for his more than forming a more field. his money by forcing a runoff election six weeks later.

Brown, as expected, won the election, in part due to his early pre-committed gay support and his ability to out-spend the competition. But the Ammiano race changed the face of the city, pass-



Tom Ammiano at his mayoral kickoff in February.

ing district elections for the Board of Supervisors, and galvanizing voters to elect a new board of neighborhood-oriented represen-

tatives in 2000. With more than 20 years of government experience - including a stint on the school board,

and two terms as president of the Board of Supervisors – Ammiano is a force to be reckoned with. He is a force to be reckoned with. He is responsible for introducing and co-authoring the city's landmark domestic partnership bill, and championing protections for renters, gays, people with AIDS, workers, and schools.

Things are different for both Ammiano and San Francisco since the 1999 mayor's race. Conseare the

the 1999 mayor's race. Gone are the dot-coms and the inflated stock prices of rentals, and so too are a lot of jobs and services. This tends to paint Ammiano as less extreme than the previous race, when some may have viewed him as the economic bubble's "spoiler," out to stop big businesses from displacing average citizens. These days his criticism of the boom's inflation and erratic bulldozing seems right on target, considering all the vacancies and unfinished construction.

and unfinished construction.

Still, he has to appeal to more moderates in order to win in November, which he said he plans to do. Not by changing his positions on social justice matters, but rather, by bringing more people to the table for negotiations, and emphasizing the ideas with which all voters can identify.

"My positions haven't changed, but what I've developed is an expertise in leadership and management," said Ammiano, pointing to mediation deals he has brokered between tenants and landlords, healthcare companies and patients, and environmentalists and

healthcare companies and patients, and environmentalists and mass transit. "What I stand for is an openness in government. Good government is one way I can reach people that may not agree with me on everything. I'm also familiar and consistent. And that's worth something." something



Susan Leal does a walkabout in the Castro with supporters, including Assemblyman Mark Leno, right.

On a busy Saturday afternoon in the Hayes Valley eatery Citizen Cake, a large poster hung in the window declaring the restaurant's support of Susan Leal for mayor. support of Susan Leal for mayor. Ten feet away, however, Leal was standing at the door receiving the news that there were no tables available. Clearly, one mention of her name to the hostess, and her party would have been seated. But "I don't do that," Leal explained, "that" meaning she does not exert her political influence for personal gain, not even for a cup of coffee. It's a theme she plans to emphasize during her campaign for

phasize during her campaign for mayor. The numerous reported personal favors that pervade City Hall, including the recent alleged police abuse cover-up where Mayor Willie Brown backed his

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## Your testosterone could be running on empty.

For men living with HIV, both the disease and its treatments can cause a medical condition called hypogonadism, or low testosterone levels, which can cause depression, fatigue and low sex drive as well as other problems. Your doctor can check your testosterone level with a simple blood test.

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Indication: AndroGel is indicated for replacement therapy in males for conditions associated with a deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone, such as primary hypogonadism or hypogonadotropic hypogonadism.



#### **Safety Information:**

- · Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast, or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate.3
- The most frequent adverse events reported by ≥5% of patients associated with the consistent use of AndroGel after 30 months follow-up in a controlled trial (n=93) included lab test abnormal, acne, prostate disorder and application site reaction.4

Please see accompanying brief summary of Impertant safety and prescribing information.

Ask your doctor if AndroGel is right for you.

www.androgel.com

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"Brief Summary (for full Prescribing Information and Patient Information, refer to package insert.)"

#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

AndroGel® is indicated for replacement therapy in males for conditions associated with a deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone

- testosterone:

  J. Primary hypogonadism (congenital or acquired) testicular failure due to cryptorchidism, bilateral torsion, orchitis, vanishing testis syndrome, orchiectomy, Klinefelter's syndrome, chemotherapy, or toxic damage from alcohol or heavy metals. These men usually have low serum testosterone levels and gonadotropins (FSH, LH)
- have low serum testosterone levels and gonadotropins (FSH, LH) above the normal range.

  2. Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (congenital or acquired) idiopathic gonadotropin or luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) deficiency or pituitary-hypothalamic injury from tumors, trauma, or radiation. These men have low testosterone serum levels but have gonadotropins in the normal or low range.

  AndroGel\* has not been clinically evaluated in males under 18 years

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate. AndroGel® is not indicated for use in women, has not been evaluated in women, and must not be used in women. Pregnant women should avoid skin contact with AndroGel® application sites in men. Testosterone may cause fetal harm. In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin to which AndroGel® has been applied does come in direct contact with the skin of a pregnant woman, the general area of contact on the woman should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. In vitro studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water. AndroGel® should not be used in patients with known hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients, including testosterone USP that is chemically synthesized from soy.

- WARNINGS

  1. Prolonged use of high doses of orally active 17-alpha-alkyl androgens (e.g., methyltestosterone) has been associated with serious hepatic adverse effects (peliosis hepatis, hepatic neoplasms, cholestatic hepatitis, and jaundie). Peliosis hepatis can be a life-threatening or fatal complication. Long-term therapy with testosterone enanthate, which elevates blood levels for prolonged periods, has produced multiple hepatic adenomas. Testosterone is not known to produce these adverse effects.

  2. Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.
- carcinoma. 3. Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demograph characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy. In men receiving testosterone replacemen therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonadal men (see PRECAUTIONS: Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility and Lahoratory Tests)
- Laboratory Tests).
   Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. In addition to discontinuation of the drug, diuretic
- disease. In addition to discontinuation of the drug, diuretic therapy may be required.

  5. Gynecomastia frequently develops and occasionally persists in patients being treated for hypogonadism.

  6. The treatment of hypogonadal men with testosterone esters may potentiate sleep apnea in some patients, especially those with risk factors such as obesity or chronic lung diseases.

  7. GELS ARE FLAMMABLE. AVOID FIRE, FLAME OR SMOKING DURING USE.

#### PRECAUTIONS

PRECAUTIONS

Transfer of testosterone to another person can occur when vigorous skin-to-skin contact is made with the application site (see Clinical Studies). The following precautions are recommended to minimize potential transfer of testosterone from AndroGel®-treated skin to another person:

Patients should wash their hands immediately with soap and water after application of AndroGel®.

Patients should cover the application site(s) with clothing after the Patients should cover the application of the Studies of the Studies

- after application of AndroGel\*.

  Patients should cover the application site(s) with clothing after the gel has dried (e.g. a shirt).

  In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin to which AndroGel\* has been applied does come in direct contact with the skin of another person, the general area of contact on the other person should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. In vitro studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water.

  Changes in body hair distribution, significant increase in acne, or other signs of virilization of the female partner should be brought to the attention of a physician.

- The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following:

   Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis.

   Any nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

   Breathing disturbances, including those associated with sleep.

Information for Patients
Advise patients to carefully read the information brochure that
accompanies each carton of 30 AndroGel® single-use packets.

- Advise patients of the following:

   AndroGel\* should not be applied to the scrotum.

   AndroGel\* should be applied once daily to clean dry skin.

   After application of AndroGel\*, it is currently unknown for how long showering or swimming should be delayed. For optimal absorption of testosterone, it appears reasonable to wait at leas 5-6 hours after application prior to showering or swimming. Nevertheless, showering or swimming after just 1 hour should have a minimal effect on the amount of AndroGel\* absorbed if done very infragulating. done very infrequently.

  • Since gels are flammable, avoid fire, flame or smoking during use

- Laboratory Tests

  1. Hemoglobin and hematocrit levels should be checked periodically (to detect polycythemia) in patients on long-term androgen therapy 2. Liver function, prostatic specific antigen, cholesterol, and high-density lipoprotein should be checked periodically.
- To ensure proper dosing, serum testosterone concentration should be measured (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Drug Interactions
Oxyphenbutazone: Concurrent administration of oxyphenbutazone and androgens may result in elevated serum levels of oxyphenbutazone. Insulin: In diabetic patients, the metabolic effects of androgens may decrease blood glucose and, therefore, insulin requirements. Propranolol: In a published pharmacokinetic study of an injectable testosterone product, administration of testosterone cypionate led to an increased clearance of propranolol in the majority of men tested.
Corticosteroids: The concurrent administration of testosterone with

Corticosteroids: The concurrent administration of testosterone with ACTH or corticosteroids may enhance edema formation; thus, these drugs should be administered cautiously, particularly in patients with cardiac or hepatic disease.

<u>Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions</u>
Androgens may decrease levels of thyroxin-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T4 serum levels and increased resin uptake of T3 and T4. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged, however, and there is no clinical evidence of thyroid dysfunction.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Animal Data: Testosterone has been tested by subcutaneous injection
and implantation in mice and rats. In mice, the implant induced
cervical-uterine tumors, which metastasized in some cases. There is
suggestive evidence that injection of testosterone into some strains
of female mice increases their susceptibility to hepatoma.
Testosterone is also known to increase the number of tumors and
decrease the degree of differentiation of chemically induced
carcinomas of the liver in rats.

Human Data: There are rare reports of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients receiving long-term oral therapy with androgens in high doses. Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases

Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic

carcinoma.

Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demographic characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy.

In men receiving testosterone replacement therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonadal men.

\*\*Pregnancy Category X (see CONTRAINDICATIONS) – Teratogenic Effects: AndroGel\* is not indicated for women and must not be used in women.

Nursing Mothers: AndroGel® is not indicated for women and must

not be used in women.

Pediatric Use: Safety and efficacy of AndroGel\* in pediatric patients have not been established.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

ADVERSE REACTIONS
In a controlled clinical study, 154 patients were treated with
AndroGel\* for up to 6 months (see Clinical Studies). Adverse Events
possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel\* and
reported by ≥1% of the patients are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to Use of AndroGel\* in the Controlled Clinical Trial

	Dose of AndroGel®		
Adverse Event	5 g	7.5 g	10 g
Acne	1%	3%	8%
Alopecia	1%	0%	1%
Application Site Reaction	5%	3%	4%
Asthenia	0%	3%	1%
Depression	1%	0%	1%
Emotional Lability	0%	3%	3%
Gynecomastia	1%	0%	3%
Headache	4%	3%	0%
Hypertension	3%	0%	3%
Lab Test Abnormal*	6%	5%	3%
Libido Decreased	0%	3%	1%
Nervousness	0%	3%	1%
Pain Breast	1%	3%	1%
Prostate Disorder**	3%	3%	5%
Testis Disorder	3%	0%	0%

- Lab test abnormal occurred in nine patients with one or more of the following events: elevated hemoglobin or hematocrit, hyperlipidemia, elevated triglycerides, hypokalemia, decreased HDL, elevated glucose, elevated creatinine, or elevated total
- \*\* Prostate disorders included five patients with enlarged prostate, one patient with BPH, and one patient with elevated PSA results

The following adverse events possibly related to the use of AndroGel\* occurred in fewer than 1% of patients: amnesia, anxiety, discolored hair, dizziness, dry skin, hirsutism, hostility, impaired urination, paresthesia, penis disorder, peripheral edema, sweating, and

paresthesia, penis disorder, peripheral edema, sweating, and vasodilation.

In this clinical trial of AndroGel\*, skin reactions at the site of application were occasionally reported with AndroGel\*, but none was severe enough to require treatment or discontinuation of drug. Six (4%) patients in this trial had adverse events that led to discontinuation of AndroGel\*. These events included the following: cerebral hemorrhage, convulsion (neither of which were considered related to AndroGel\* administration), depression, sadness, memory loss, elevated prostate specific antigen and hypertension. No AndroGel\* patients discontinued due to skin reactions.

In an uncontrolled pharmacokinetic study of 10 patients, two had adverse events associated with AndroGel\*, these were asthenia and depression in one patient and increased libido and hyperkinesia in the other. Among 17 patients in foreign clinical studies there was a instance each of acne, erythema and benign prostate adenoma associated with a 2.5% testosterone gel formulation applied dermally. One hundred six (106) patients have received AndroGel\* for up to 12 months in a long-term follow-up study for patients who completed the controlled clinical trial. The preliminary safety results from this study are consistent with those reported for the controlled clinical trial. The preliminary safety results from this study are consistent with those reported for the controlled clinical trial. Table 2 summarizes those adverse events possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel\* and reported by at least 1% of the total number of patients during long-term exposure to AndroGel\*.

Table 2. Incidence of Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to the Use of AndroGel® in the Long-Term,

rollow-up study i						
	Dose of AndroGel®					
Adverse Event	<b>5</b> g	<b>7.5</b> g	<b>1</b> 0 g			
Lab Test Abnormal*	4.2%	0.0%	6.3%	Ī		
Peripheral Edema	1.4%	0.0%	3.1%			
Acne	2.8%	0.0%	12.5%			
Application Site Reaction	9.7%	10.0%	3.1%			
Prostate Disorder**	2.8%	5.0%	18.8%			
Urination Impaired	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%			

- Lab test abnormal included one patient each with elevated GGTP,
- elevated hematocrit and hemoglobin, increased total bilirubin, worsened hyperlipidemia, decreased HDL, and hypokalemia.

  \*\* Prostate disorders included enlarged prostate, elevated PSA results, and in one patient, a new diagnosis of prostate cancer; three patients (one taking 7.5 g daily and two taking 10 g daily) discontinued AndroGel\* treatment during the long-term study because disturbidies.

#### DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

AndroGel\* contains testosterone, a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by the Anabolic Steroids Control Act. Oral ingestion of AndroGel\* will not result in clinically significant serum testosterone concentrations due to extensive first-pass metabolism.

There is one report of acute overdosage by injection of testosterone enanthate: testosterone levels of up to 11,400 ng/dL were implicated in a cerebrovascular accident.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION
The recommended starting dose of AndroGel® 1% is 5 g delivering 5 mg of testosterone systemically, applied once daily (preferably in the morning) to clean, dry, intact skin of the shoulders and upper arms and/or abdomen. Upon opening the packet(s), the entire contents should be squeezed into the palm of the hand and immediately applied to the application sites. Alternately, patients may squeeze a portion of the gel from the packet into the palm of the hand and apply to application sites. Repeat until entire contents have been applied. Application sites should be allowed to dry for a few minutes prior to dressing. Hands should be washed with soap and waster after AndroGel® has been applied. Do not apply AndroGel® to the genifals.

with soap and water after AndroGel\* has been applied.

Do not apply AndroGel\* to the genitals.

Serum testosterone levels should be measured approximately
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if the desired clinical response is not achieved, the daily AndroGel\*
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# **Degrees of inclusion**

Wong prioritizes diversity at City College



City College of San Francisco

by Zak Szymanski

s a double minority, the openly gay and Chinese American Lawrence Wong knows what discrimination is like. And as an elected member of the board of City College of San Francisco, he draws from his unique background to ensure that equal opportunities are available to people of all genders, ethnicities, and sexual orienta-

"Being openly gay in the Asian American community, and active in the GLBT community, is a

bridges between the two minori-ty communities," said Wong, who was first politicized by the gay community, getting his start in the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, and later, being appointed to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, where he founded the commission's LGBT task force. He later reconnected with Asian and immigrant political efforts, and in 1996 he became the

forts, and in 1996 he became the first openly gay man to lead the Chinese American Alliance for Civil Rights, one of the oldest such organizations in the nation. Wong's double minority status, for all its opportunity, can also carry double the amount of prejudice. As a Chinese American, said Wong, his culture "doesn't even talk about straight sex ... much less exuality that's beyond much less sexuality that's beyond the norm." Being openly gay within his Asian community has meant facing resentment for his comparison of racial and sexuality based oppression, and at times, not being invited to some of the more mainstream Asian events. Even running for supervisor in 2000 posed challenges; some have speculated that Wong's sexuality turned enough Asian voters off to make a difference in the election's outcome; his native district of Chinatown/North Beach elected Supervisor Aaron Peskin by just 1,000 votes.

Being an openly gay politician in the world at large is also not

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# **Green piece** of the puzzle

Mark Sanchez pushes equality in S.F. schools

by Zak Szymanski

atred and prejudice, it's been said, has to be taught. It makes sense, then, that one the ways in which LGBT and civil rights are advancing is through

civil rights are advancing is through teaching young minds about the positive power of diversity. Openly gay and Latino Board of Education Commissioner Mark Sanchez is one of the faces behind

such progress.

The teacher-turned-politician was a seven-year elementary educator in San Francisco schools, and was elected citywide to the Board of Education in November

His sexuality did not come up His sexuality did not come up during his campaign, in part because the identity he trumpeted was that of the only teacher to be on the school board. There's also "a comfort zone" around gay politicians, said Sanchez, which was the his course eval a printation a

politicians, said Sanchez, which made his own sexual orientation a political "non-issue."

Still, Sanchez credits the late Supervisor Harvey Milk for making an openly gay adult in the schools a possibility at all.

"I remember being a teenager – I don't even think I knew I was gay – and hearing about his efforts against the Briggs initiative, which sought to ban gay teachers from sought to ban gay teachers from schools," said Sanchez, now 40. "I was impressed by that movement. It really helped to politicize me. And years later when I decided to become a teacher, I knew that I

wouldn't necessarily have to hide." Now, as someone who helps to Now, as someone who nelps to set school district-wide policy, Sanchez is thankful, he said, that a person of his particular back-ground gets to influence what to-morrow's adults will learn today. Policy-wise, San Francisco schools have solid protections against LGBT discrimination and harassment. But rampant homo-

harassment. But rampant homo-phobia exists, said Sanchez, as wit-nessed by the phrase "That's so gay" that continues to top the list of peer insults. Sanchez is also in touch with an effeminate teacher who is harassed by many of his students



San Francisco Board of Education

For his part, Sanchez hopes to motivate teachers to take more of a stand against anti-LGBT bigotry. "We do need to move in a bet-

ter direction, to get non-gay teachers to be the first ones to step up when they hear anti-queer slurs and say, 'This is unaccept-able, and this is why,'' said Sanchez. "It shouldn't just be the

Sanchez. "It shouldn't just be the burden of LGBT teachers." Sanchez is also pushing for-ward what he considers progress-sive priorities for the Board of Ed-ucation, which includes re-introducing the topic of phasing out the junior ROTC program from

San Francisco campuses.

"I think it's fair to say that most members of the Board of Education are opposed to the U.S. military's influence on our children," said Sanchez. "But the kids and parents really value the program. For some of these kids, it's been a savior to them.

As a person of color, Sanchez believes he can resonate with the junior ROTC members, many of whom are ethnic minorities. His hope is to replace the program with something that provides students with just as much discipline without the military influence, and his plan is to frame the argument as a moral one, drawing par-allels between the military's ho-

mophobic policies and racism.

It's just one of many policy areas he is tackling from an ac-

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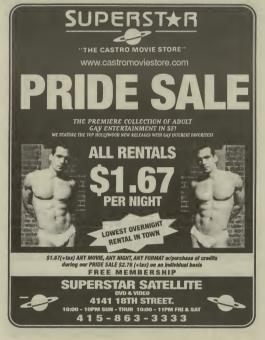
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# The new gay activism: A return to old ideals

by Zak Szymanski

hen police officer-turnedsupervisor-turned-assas-sin Dan White was sentenced to just seven years in prison for the murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, thousands of outraged people marched downtown, breaking windows in City Hall and setting nearby police cars on fire. In retaliation, police officers stormed the Castro, beating pedestrians, dragging cus-tomers from gay bars, and vandal-

izing businesses.

The White Night riots of May
21, 1979 went down as one of the The White Night riots of May 21, 1979 went down as one of the most violent incidents in San Francisco history. And while many in the community were uncomfortable with gay participation in the evening's destruction, the uproar undeniably empowered gays as a population that would indeed fight back.

In the 25 years that have followed Milk's death, there has been much talk of "the glory days" of activism. Nothing was quite like being a part of Milk's movement, which although largely nonviolent was in many ways unapologetically angry and anti-establishment.

Many direct action efforts sprung from Milk's progressive ideology, including the drag nun order the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in 1979. Later, as AIDS took its toll, San Francisco formed one of many



Police restrain protesters at Gay Shame's February demonstration

fearsome ACT UP chapters, a group that used confrontational tactics to change AIDS policy.

Yet for all the yearning for yesteryear, very few activists have maintained their radical posture, a change some attribute to post-AIDS fatigue. And when progressive direct action efforts have emerged – like the groups Trans-Action or Gay Shame – its members have found themselves, much like Milk did, criticized by fellow gays for targeting people or institutions considered to be "allies."

For these new activist groups on the scene, such criticism is

on the scene, such criticism is ironic, particularly when it comes from Milk's contemporaries. The attempt to discourage their move-ments, they say, is exactly the type of comfortable complacency they

of comfortable complacency they are targeting.
"So many LGBT people are so easily bought out by a few minor gains," said Shawna Virago, a transgender and anti-violence aetivist who, as a member of Trans-Action, challenged the participation of uniformed police in the Prida Parade.

Pride Parade.

"If we look at the history of "If we look at the history of queer organizing and activism, we see groups of queer folk coming together to critique institutions of power: state violence, capitalism, media representation," said Virago. "Most of these struggles still remain today, and yet people are so afraid to speak up. They're afraid that we are going to alienate people in the larger heterosexist white supremacist male culture we live

ple in the larger heterosexist white supremacist male culture we live in, and lose what we've gained. I think Harvey Milk would be ap-palled by this kind of fear." For Virago, supporting the struggle and lives of LGBT cops is separate from supporting the in-stitution of the police force, which she says represents a history of government-sanctioned violence against minorities.

government-sanctioned violence against minorities.

And limiting the LGBT strug-gle to fighting for equal rights in housing and employment, she said, only works for people who are privileged enough to access employment and housing in the first slace.

first place.

Mary Oliver, a member of the direct action group Gay Shame,

agrees.
"I think it's a disgrace that in the queer Castro on a restaurant named Harvey's, there is sign supporting Supervisor Gavin Newsom for mayor," he said.

In one of the most controversial activist events in recent memory, Cay Shame demonstrated outside.

Gay Shame demonstrated outside a Newsom fundraiser at the LGBT Community Center in February. The group was protesting New-som's Care Not Cash initiative – which sought to cut general assistance payments to the homeless – and was denouncing what they said was Newsom's attempt to exploit and divide the gay vote for his

ploit and divide the gay vote for his mayoral campaign. The evening turned violent, with police allegedly beating demonstrators; several people were injured.

Oliver, too, emphasizes that his group's target is not the gay community, but rather, how the gay community is spending its money and allowing itself to be bought. Many gays were appalled by Gay Shame's protest of the gay-friendly Newsom, labeling the group as "dangerous."

But Oliver said the group's po-

Bathle's protests of the gay-in-find ly Newsom, labeling the group as "dangerous."

But Oliver said the group's position is that until all queers are free, no queers are free, and this includes "queers who are homeless, jobless, and disenfranchised."

"We want the gay community to make links between the queer rights struggle and issues like police brutality, and housing and healthcare struggles," he said.

Jeff Sheehy has been involved in LGBT and AIDS activism and policy reform for many years. When the radical AIDS dissident group ACT UP/San Francisco in 2001 allegedly made threats against Sheehy and others in city health and media positions, Sheehy supported the filing of criminal charges. But he draws the line, he said, at labeling groups like Gay Shame "dangerous."

Although he dislikes the term, "Gay Shame," and disagrees with some activists' views that all cops are enemies, Sheehy said he feels "educated" by Gay Shame's activism.

"I think it's important that LGBT folks never lose the sense that fundamentally, they're outsiders, as much as they think they're accepted," said Sheehy. "There always needs to be some-body challenging the orthodoxy, because we're always only a few

"There always needs to be some-body challenging the orthodoxy, because we're always only a few short steps to the concentration camps and the quarantines." Sheehy's main criticisms of ac-tivism today is that it "lacks a sense of humor." Sheehy took part in the demonstrations against United Airlines in 1999, which protested the company's refusal to comply with San Francisco's do-mestic partnership law. Several demonstrations were led by a group of people dressed in Tinky Winky costumes. But humor does occasionally

make its way to local outlets, including the upcoming Gay Shame Awards, to be held on Friday, June 27, at 5:30 p.m. at Octavia and Market Street.

Market Street.

The awards go to LGBT community members and anointed allies who "use gay Pride as a coverup for their greed and misdeeds," with awards in the categories of "Best Front-Row Seat for Police Brutality," "Best Racial Profiling," and the "IN" award, given to celebrities "who should never have come out." More information is available at www.gavshames.for. " available at www.gayshamesf.org. lacktriangledown



# SFPD Pride Alliance off and running

by Matthew S. Bajko

n San Francisco's Police Department, numbers tell the tale of how far gays and lesbians have come, and how much further they have to go, since the first group of LGBT officers joined the ranks in the late 1970s.

Today, there are 200 officers in a department of 2 200 who identi-

a department of 2,200 who identi-

a department of 2,200 who identify as LGBT.

Of that, only 30 are gay men, and none have ever made it past the rank of sergeant.

While lesbian officers have progressed to the rank of lieutenant and beyond, only one, windy Paralla base distributed the Mindy Pengel, has climbed the command ladder to land near the top as a deputy chief.



Deputy Chief Mindy Pengel

startling for a department located

"We should have 300 to 400 gay and lesbian officers," said gay Officer Scott Hoey-Custock. "My goal is to see at least 100 gay men in the accomplisation."

AIDS is mainly to blame for the low numbers of gay men in the ranks and why they seem to be stuck below a glass ceiling. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of the gay men, upwards of 50 men in the department, were lost to AIDS.

"At least one or more of those individuals would be sitting here where I am today," said Pengel, who oversees the department's airport bureau. airport bureau.

"We were decimated by AIDS," said Hoey-Custock. "It's a whole command staff of highly talented and skilled gay men who passed away because of AIDS and we have never recovered."

The tide is finally beginning to

turn though.
This July marks the one-year

anniversary of the San Francisco Police Officer's Pride Alliance and its main focus is providing the support and resources necessary not only to grow the numbers of LGBT people joining the force, but to ensure LGBT officers ad-

but to ensure LGBT officers advance through the ranks.

The formation of the organization came on the heels of the death of Jon C. Cook, the first gay officer to die while on the job, and the vocal opposition that erupted last summer over the planned demotion of Pengel as deputy chief. Some have speculated that the move was a way to thwart the possibility of Pengel being named chief some day.

chief some day.
Pengel's fate reverberated with Pengel's fate reverberated with gay and lesbians throughout the ranks, who wondered if the department's highest ranking LGBT officer wasn't safe, would they be? In a department racked with Machiavellian plots, power struggles, and public scandals, the Pride Alliance came together to offer LGBT cops a political foothold and security within the force.

"It is about politics. This is a very political department," said gay Police Commissioner Wayne Friday, who is also the Bay Area Reporter's political editor and

Reporter's political editor and writes a weekly column. "You don't get anything unless you ask for it."
"There was a lot of pressure put on the department and the mayor's office not to mess with Mindy and it worked this part of the second o it worked. It is a large part of the reason why we have a Pride Al-liance," added Friday, who said that he intends to step down from the commission at the end of this year.

commission at the end of this year.

"I think what happened was kind of a wake-up call for us. We really didn't have an organization that was specifically for the SFPD. It was the primary catalyst to get things rolling for us," said Sergeant Inspector Lea Militello, who helped found the Pride Alliance.

Along with Hoey-Custock, Militello co-chairs the LGBT officers group. As it gains a toehold in the department's political power structure, the organization is committed to improving recruitment and retention of LGBT people.

"We have to do a better job of recruitment in the gay community.

recruitment in the gay community. Absolutely, there is no question we have to do that," said Militello. "Es-pecially, an effort has to be made to pecially, an effort has to be made to recruit in areas where there are gay men. We have to go to places where gay men hang out. We need to have booths at the Castro Street Fair and the Folsom Street Fair.

"And it doesn't stop at recruit-



SFPD Pride Alliance Co-chairs Sergeant Inspector Lea Militello, left, and Officer Scott Hoey-Custock, at the group's first event, held June 10.

ment either. It goes beyond that to retention," added Militello. "Once you recruit them, you have to get them through the testing process, the police academy, the field training program and up until the end of their probation and they become permanent police officers in the SFPD."

To that extent, the members of

To that extent, the members of the Pride Alliance will serve as mentors to LGBT people trying to get onto the force. And they also intend to team those officers who have progressed in rank with other officers attempting to follow

suit. It is not an easy process.

Officers wanting to advance must meet certain time requirements and pass difficult tests that are given every few years. Even if they pass the tests, their promoare based on how well they did and having an organization lobby on their behalf to be select-

lobby on their behalt to be selected to openings in the ranks.

Currently Sergeant James
Bosch is the only openly gay man
on the list of potential candidates
to be named lieutenant. But he didn't place high enough on the list to be a rank order appoint-ment, and last spring he barely survived an on-the-job accident and went out on disability.

The soonest the lieutenants test will be given again is 2004, and while there are several gay and while there are several gay men eligible to take it, there are no guarantees they will pass or place high enough on the list. In any event, it is thought a gay man won't make the rank of lieutenant until 2008.

"A big part of the issue for gay men in our department is the op-portunities historically have not been there for openly gay men,"

Bosch said. "The department has to be asked 'What are you doing about this?' There are some changes on

this? There are some changes on the horizon, so my impression is to be optimistic about it."

One of those changes is the very likely possibility a lesbian could be appointed as the next chief, depending on who wins the mayor's race this year. At least one candidate is said to be eyeing three women, two of whom are lesbian, for the post. And with two openly gay can-

two of whom are lesbian, for the post. And with two openly gay candidates in the race, speculation is growing about who will be chief.

"We have had an Asian chief and a black chief. It would be like a double scoop of ice cream to have a woman who is gay as chief," said Pengel, whose name is most often mentioned as a leading candidate for the job.

The very suggestion that the

The very suggestion that the same person once facing ejection from the command staff could be running the entire department exemplifies how far the LGBT officers have come since rallying around Pengel last year. And it around Pengel last year. And it shows the power that a concerted voice for LGBT officers can have

woice for LGBT officers can have in the department.

"It is quite a change from where you are fighting like hell to save some one's job to then move to this time period where now there is a possibility that not only could we have the first lesbian as police chief but the first woman as chief," said Militello.

"Over the next 12 months in

"Over the next 12 months in this city things are going to be very interesting," predicted Hoey-Custock. "Get your popcorn and watch the show." ▼

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## **Mark Sanchez**

◆ page 51

tivist's perspective. His progressive views have always shaped his career, even as an educator: he founded Teachers 4 Change and Teachers 4 Social Justice, the direct action groups which strive to increase educational services received by California's students, increase edual education opportunities. crease equal education opportunities and decrease the level of in-

carceration among young people.
Sanchez is also one of the many recent converts to the Green Party, a switch he doesn't believe Party, a switch he doesn't believe will affect his re-election, despite the anti-Green backlash after President Bush's victory. He sees 'local politics as the place for the Greens, and he points out that California's Green Party will not back the recall effort on Governor Gray Dayis, precisely to avoid hay. Gray Davis, precisely to avoid hav-ing a Republican governor. Should the recall make the ballot, however, Peter Camejo, the Green Party gubernatorial candidate last year who captured 5 percent of the vote, has announced that he plans to run. With many other LGBT politicos, Sanchez founded the Lavender Greens, which will march as a contingent in this year's Pride Parade.

With one foot in two minority communities, Sanchez is also addressing the needs of the underserved districts, and plans to fight for updated technology, equality in education, and better incentives for teachers to stay in challenging environments.

environments.
"I think that because of my background," said Sanchez, "I am able to bridge communities around issues like access and discrimination."

Being gay and Latino may be a non-issue as far as Mark Sanchez's career is concerned. But it just may make all the difference when it comes to the values instilled in San Francisco's youth.

## 2003 grand marshal

# Queen of the prom: Vicki Marlane gets spotlight she deserves

his is the fairy tale of a little girl from the middle of the country who created her own reality and made her dreams

come true. Vicki Marlane, 68, is the public's choice for grand marshal of this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade. She received 286 of the 2,051 votes cast, the largest number received of any of the 10

The transgender performer, who runs in drag queen and transgender circles alike, is famous for her regular shows at Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Turk Street every weekend. Her donated performances have brought in thousands of dollars for charities like the AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds, and Pets Are Wonderful Support. And her long-term career continues to serve as a nurturing ground for the next generation of transgender performers and drag queen der performers and drag queen hopefuls.

hopefuls.

But Marlane's story begins in
Minnesota. It 1934, on a farm in Minnesota. It was there that she was born, delivered by her grandmother amidst the surrounding crops and hay. She can remember spending time as a child on that farm, delivering

water to Nazi prisoners of war who were shipped over from Germany to work on farms here. It wasn't her only glimpse of hatred. Growing up, Marlane always identified as female, which didn't go over too well in her small town of 2,000 people. She tended to present as female outside of school, and she'd usually "fool most people," she said. One day a girl from her class recognized her, and threatened to tell. "So I threatened to beat her up," said Marlane. ened to beat her up," said Marlane.
The girl never told.
Adulthood tensions were not

Adulthood tensions were not resolved as quickly. She came out into a transgender community, never identifying as a gay man, but was puzzled as to why transgender women were seen as threatening to the gay community

at large.
"When I first came here we weren't even allowed in the gay bars if we were in drag," remem-bered Marlane. "During the first gay Pride Parade my friends and I rode in a convertible, and we got just as many 'boos' from gay peo-ple as we did from straights."

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Grand marshal Vicki Marlane

She has seen a little progress since then, particularly in the younger LGBT community. She has been invited to be a featured performer at Trannyshack, for instance, a drag venue at the Stud bar that attracts a diverse crowd.

But she still must contend with transphobia daily, which can manifest itself in subtle forms, like the letter she received from the housing authority the other day

housing authority the other day that read, "Mr. Vicki Marlane." "I was told it was a 'computer

error,' but somebody had to enter that 'Mister' in the computer; the computer didn't see 'Vicki' and decide that I must be a man," laughed Marlane. "Yeah, I called up, raised a little stink over there. You know, I give respect. I want to get respect."

Of course, a challenging world never stopped Marlane, who to this day focuses on the positive elements of her life. Performance has been her outlet, which began 50 years ago as a "hoochie-

50 years ago as a "hoochie-coochie" dancer in a traveling cir-cus, and her performance has con-tinued for decades in San Francis-co, making her a local cultural

Marlane is "thrilled" by her grand marshal honor, she said, and is preparing for the parade by adding a beaded fringe to her sil-

ver gown.
"Oh, I'm excited about it," said Marlane, no doubt looking forward to a friendlier convertible

ride this time around.

Marlane does have a message for the LGBT community this

Pride.
"It sounds corny," she said,
"but my God, let's try to get along.
We're just here for a short time;
let's live and let live. As long as people don't step on your toes, why worry about it?"

Taking a deep breath, Marlane

taking a deep breath, Mariane chuckled.

"Life's too short honey," she said, "and I've lost too many dear friends already."

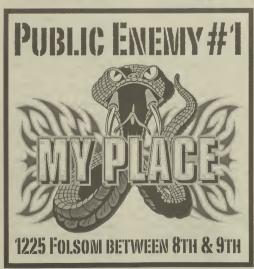


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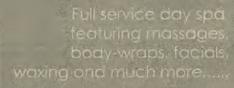


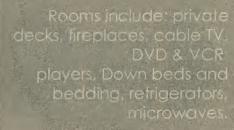
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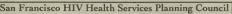
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ouncil usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM Conference Room (Room 201), San Francovo City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. lett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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2003 grand marshal

# **Terry Person-Harris** battles violence

by Zak Szymanski

erry Person-Harris is likable, smart, and funny, but she's not someone most people in the queer community want to

know.
That's because Person-Harris, 51, is executive director of Community United Against Violence, an organization, she said, that many LGBT people "don't want to think about or visit, until they ab-

For nearly 25 years, CUAV has provided the victims of hate crimes and LGBT domestic violence with legal and counseling relence with legal and counseling referrals, case management, and assistance in securing restraining orders and filing police reports. The organization – a founding member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs – also compiles statistics on LGBT violence, and conducts outreach to the community so that its members know where to turn for help. Person-Harris has been with CUAV for 10 years. She took over the position of executive director in 2000. For her decades of com-



Grand marshal Terry Person-Harris

mitment to anti-violence work and organizing, the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebraition's electoral college – a com-mittee of past grand and honorary marshals – chose Person-Harris as a grand marshal of this year's pa-

She was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and lost both of her parents by the time she was 13, at which point she moved to Mis-

souri to live with relatives. From souri to live with relatives. From then on she started winning scholarships to schools, attending the prestigious Kent in Connecticut, then Carlton College in Minnesota, and finally, a seminary, which somehow managed to drag her out of the closet (she switched degrees when it became apparent that her sexual orientation would wrabibit; her from being orprohibit her from being or dained).

Her activist roots can be traced, like many of those in anti-violence work, to the battered women's movement in the 1980s. An intermittent stint in construc-tion also makes her "probably the only female executive director around who is also a journeyman roofer," she said. And on a more personal note, she added her mother's maiden name to her own last name when she turned 50, as a way of "making sure she was remembered in my life as

What Person-Harris is most known for these days is her role at CUAV, which in the past few years has taken an anti-oppression view of the world at large, fighting not

next page

2003 grand marshal

# Hank Wilson has a legacy of activism

by Cynthia Laird

hen longtime community activist Hank marshal in this Sunday's LGBT Pride Parade, he will be marching as a long-term AIDS survivor and

someone who has worked tireless-ly in the trenches of early activism around the epidemic. Yet Wilson, in an interview last month, said he wishes the LGBT community in the Bay Area would

community in the Bay Area would once again take the lead in the fight for full equality. Something seems to be missing, he said.
"Where's the cutting edge right now?" he asked over lunch at a Castro restaurant. "The media becomes the movement in a war with a second of the said of t comes the movement in a vacu-um. We need to reinvigorate that. For example, gays in the military – we want it on the [political]

agenda, especially in the pri-

When the Army kicked out at least nine service members last year who were studying difficult languages, such as Arabic, at the prestigious Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, Wilson said the local gay community missed an opportunity to fur-ther expose the hypocrisy of the homophobic "Don't Ask, Don't

homophobic "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"It was an incredible opportunity," he said, adding that a louder response "could have drawn moderates" to the cause of working to repeal the law.

"We need to look for those windows of opportunity. I remember when Anita Bryant really energized people," he said, referring to Bryant's crusade against gays and the subsequent boycott of Florida orange juice. Gay rights had debuted in mainstream news coverage, he added. "Now, we're used to being in the news."

Still, Wilson wondered.

"If we know that [Pennsylvania

Still, Wilson wondered.
"If we know that [Pennsylvania
GOP Senator Rick] Santorum is
coming to the Bay Area, are we
ready to engage him? I would
hope that we are."
Santorum, of course, made
headlines in April when he equated homosexuality with bigamy,
polyvamy, adultery and incest

polygamy, adultery, and incest.

#### Early activism

Wilson, 55, is a former teacher who worked with another openly gay teacher, Tom Ammiano, in 1975 to form the Gay Teachers Coalition. The group approached the Human Rights Commission to



Grand marshal Hank Wilson

have the school district's non-dis-crimination policies include sexu-al orientation. Initially, when the coalition brought the issue to board, they were told that there board, they were told that there wasn't enough time on the agenda. Wilson said that after the group left the meeting, the board voted 7-0 against the policy change. Wilson was livid, especially because of opposition by some in the gay community.

"[Gay activist] Jim Foster told us we were pushing too soon," Wilson recalled. "Harvey [Milk] came and spoke up for us."

The next school board meeting was decidedly different.

was decidedly different.

"Five hundred people showed up," Wilson said. "There was a Catholic priest on the board at the time and I considered him the least likely [to reverse the vote]. He made the motion for it [the re-

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PRIDE

2003 grand marshal

# Community ally Rev. **Cecil Williams honored**

by Cynthia Laird

ne of the most staunch allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communi-ty will be honored in Sunday's Pride Parade. The Reverend Cecil Williams, senior pastor at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, was named a grand mar-shal by the LGBT Pride Board of Directors in recognition of his lifetime commitment to activism

and social justice.
Williams was on vacation most of this month. But he will be riding in the June 29 Pride Parade, and likely will be loudly cheered by the crowd.

of the crowd.

"I am honored and very proud that the LGBT community has selected me to be their Lifetime Achievement grand marshal," said a statement from Williams after a statement from Williams after the announcement was made in late May. "Our journey together in fighting for human rights is not over ... I am proud to stand with my brothers and sisters of this community."

For more than 40 years, Williams has challenged and raised the limits of spirituality, compassion, and diversity not only in his role as pastor, but

compassion, and diversity not only in his role as pastor, but through his countless instances of speaking out and acting on behalf of many people, including LGBTs. His work specific to the community started in 1964, when Williams served on a team of ministers and gay and lesbian activists from around the Bay Area who created the Council on Religion and Homosexuality. The following year, he created Citizen Alert, an activist group that investigated



Grand marshal Rev. Cecil Williams

police brutality charges against gay prostitutes. He was also the first minister in a major denomi-nation to perform same-sex com-

nation to perform same-sex commitment ceremonies.

In 1979, Williams was one of the people to eulogize the late Supervisor Harvey Milk to a crowd of 10,000 at the corner of Castro and Market streets. Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assasinated by Dan White on November 27, 1978.

Williams's work on behalf of the community took on a somber

williams s work on behalf of the community took on a somber role in 1989 when he created the Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS pro-ject. With the explosion of the AIDS crisis, Williams also facilifunctions, with all also facilitated numerous memorials and funerals of gay men who died of AIDS whose own families and churches rejected them. In 1991, Glide became the first church in the country to begin testing for HIV as an adjunct to the Sunday

In 1994, Glide was thrust into the media spotlight when Williams led the funeral service Williams led the funeral service for openly gay San Francisco Chronicle writer Randy Shilts, who died of AIDS. The homophobic Reverend Fred Phelps and members of his Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church protested the service, before they were chased away by mourners.

As one of the largest churches in the Bay Area, and because of Williams's activist bent, Glide has been in the news regularly over the years. The coverage, according to a Glide biography of Williams, has run the gamut.

1974: The Chronicle describes Williams's Glide Church as a

· 1974: The Chromice describes williams's Glide Church as a "flock of gays, pimps, prostitutes, winos, and wanderers." · 1975: After more than 10 years of ministry at Glide, williams is described by the Chronicle as a "mayerick" improvise. Chronicle as a "maverick Methodist minister whose flock

Methodist minister whose flock includes pimps, whores, muggers, junkies, drag queens, transvestites, winos, drifters, derelicts, and white punks on dope."

• 1995: USA Today featured Williams in a cover story on Thanksgiving Day that described the church as the most comprehensive nonprofit provider of human services in San Francisco.

• 1996: The San Jose Mercury News described Glide's history and programs, including protections.

and programs, including protec-tion of prostitutes, support of the gay community, and Williams's philosophy of inclusion of all peo-ple that he hopes will spread

throughout the country.

• Life magazine featured
Williams and the church, calling
Glide "the church for the 21st cen-

tury."
• 1998: Chronicle Datebook's "Readers Choice Awards" name Williams "Top Crusader/Activist." Williams, originally from San

Angelo, Texas, returned to his childhood hometown last No-

cmidnood nometown last No-vember for a homecoming cele-bration and to instill hope in the lives of young people there. Williams is married to Janice Mirikitani, president of the Glide Foundation and executive director of Glide programs. Williams has a of Glide programs. Williams has a son, a daughter, and a stepdaughter, and is a grandfather. ▼

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## **Person-Harris**

previous page

just for LGBT tolerance within straight society, but for racial, gender, class, and ethnic equality within the LGBT movement.

The shift has been subtle, and not usually noticed, said Person-Harris, except by those who criticize the organization "for not handing out whistles on the cor-ner of 18th and Castro streets."

CUAV is busy handing out whistles – and other materials – in many other area of the city, targeting those who don't know about their services.

"We really want to reach out to those truly underserved queer communities," said Person-Harris, communities," said Person-Harris,
"which includes women, transgenders, and people of color."

Which is not to say CUAV isn't
just as active on behalf of gay
white men

"We still take just as good care of them as anybody else," said Per-son-Harris.

It's a matter of using their resources productively, and like many nonprofits, CUAV is in a financial bind. CUAV has relied nancial bind. CUAV has relied heavily on government contracts and hasn't been able to diversify its funding as much it would like, and is currently soliciting the community for help. The organization laid off two staff people this month, and needs to raise \$10,000 in the next month in order to avoid further cutbacks.

That's not something anyone

That's not something anyone

in the LGBT community can afford, as recent statistics show an increase in hate-motivated violence for 2002. And it's not something Person-Harris wants to face as an executive director who values her staff and job tremendous-

ly.
"I have the greatest staff in the world. I couldn't do anything without the incredible people I work with. They're professional, smart, incredibly hard working and dedicated, and the community, should view them as a real ty should view them as a real asset," she said. "They amaze me every day."

The rewards of her job are not without their struggles, and not just financially, as Person-Harris

notes.
"Working within the queer community is always a challenge because I think its members sometimes really like to eat their

leaders.

"It's a difficult tightrope to walk, to bring all the various constituencies forward at the same rate. I do try to do that, but I'm only human. I really work hard at trying to be aware of the ways in which I take things for granted," she said.

If she has one message for community members this Pride, it community members this Pride, it is to be wary of playing into the hands of enemies by spending precious energy fighting each other.

"We are all in this together," said Person-Harris "We best remember that. Because if we don't, who will?"



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## 2003 grand marshal

# Smells like teen spirit: Marina Gatto is leading a movement

by Zak Szymanski

f Marina Gatto is any indication of the next generation of activists for the LGBT movement, then the right-wing homo-phobes better start conserving

phobes better start conserving their energy.

Gatto, the daughter of two lesbian mothers, Arzu and Ramona Gatto, is a 15-year-old unstoppable motor-mouthed, system-savy, politically articulate LGBT rights activist and advocate. She was elected as a Pride Parade grand marshal by the general membership of San Francisco Pride, an honor for which she has already created a media-friendly already created a media-friendly sound bite.

strongly believe that kids in gay families are a part of the big-ger community; we educate and teach people about diversity, tolteach people about diversity, toj-erance, and acceptance," Gatto told the *Bay Area Reporter* upon her election in May. "It's so im-portant that we're vocal and proud and that we show we're successful and happy and well-adjusted and thriving, and I think I can be a good example of that."

It may be easier to list what Gatto hasn't done in her young life. To hear her tell it, things got going when she was 9 years old and was introduced to the San

Francisco LGBT family organiza-tion Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. Almost imme-diately, she began making presen-tations about alternative families to social workers, schools, and companies, then quickly moved into the national news and talk show circuit. Her message packshow circuit. Her message, packaged in the form of old fashioned values, emphasizes that without legal rights for LGBT couples, children and American families as

they exist today are in danger.
One of Gatto's mothers, for instance, is an immigrant. Without stance, is an ininigrant. Without the legal protections of marriage, she must work several jobs, and pay more expensive tuition for college courses. If something should happen to her, there is no guarantee that Gatto could visit her in the hospital. And if some-thing should happen to either mother, Gatto's very future is at

stake.

Discrimination is apparent and familiar for LGBT people, but for their children it can be devastating. Gatto simply got tired of the harassment; to this day the rainbow flag in front of her family's San Mateo County home continues to be vandalized. tinues to be vandalized.

"It's been set on fire, shredded, and stolen," said Gatto. "It's unbe-

Gatto recognizes that many



Grand marshal Marina Gatto, center, with her moms, Ramona Gatto,

people would internalize all that

hatred, but she grew defiant.

"It made me want to change things all the more," she said. "I refuse to accept anything but all the rights a normal family would

have."
Perhaps her determination was helped by her early start. Even before her involvement with CO-LAGE, Gatto was a regular at Pride parades. She is well versed on the history of Harvey Milk, and has intently followed the po-

litical career of Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). The encouragement from her moms doesn't hurt, either. Gatto still needs them, after all, to drive her to all her political engage-

When she's not changing the world, Gatto is busy trying to change the climate of her Catholic school. She will return to Burlingame's Mercy High in the fall as a varsity athlete and sophofall as a varsity athlete and sopho-more class president, and her plans include creating a gay-straight alliance at the private in-stitution that is largely exempt from statewide non-discrimina-

"I'm up for the challenge," she said. "By the time I'm a senior I will have made it easier for another kid in that school."

er kid in that school."

As for her grand marshal honor, it is not lost on Gatto that she is part of a parade that is undeniably more political than others in recent past, and to share the stage with the legacy of Harvey Milk, she said, makes her "proud."

In the meantime there is work to do. And not just for the world; Gatto will be yery busy with Pride

Gatto will be very busy with Pride duties from now until Sunday.

"They sent me my itinerary," said Gatto. "And I have a whole week's worth of things to do. I'm so thrilled." ▼

### Hank Wilson

◆ page 56

versal]. That tells me to assume

wersal. That ten monthing – ever.
"We got employment protection before colleges," Wilson said.
Ammiano went on to win a seat on the Board of Education and later was elected to the Board of Supervisors.

and lately was elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Wilson switched careers and ran the Ambassador Hotel for many years. The 150-room single resident occupant (SRO) hotel housed about 100 people living with AIDS when Wilson managed it. The beta became kind of a reit. The hotel became kind of a re-ceiving center for people trying to

access services.
"People think the doors were always open," Wilson said of the fact that gays had to fight for equality in such a liberal city as San Francisco. "We had to push the doors open and we have to push constantly with the transcarder compunity." gender community.

It was a tough job. By his esti-mate, Wilson had to evict some 500 people during his tenure as manager. Almost all the evictions were related to alcohol or drug

abuse.

It's that experience that has him seeing red over the crystal methamphetamine abuse in the gay community today.

"My experience at the hotel gave me a big dose of the speed epidemic, and I'd work with people. I'm easy," Wilson said with a laugh. Then he turned serious. "That's an epidemic that's not going to go away. That's a tough one."

In 1981 Wilson began a cru-

one.

In 1981 Wilson began a crusade against poppers that continues today.

"Since the start of the epidem-

ic more than 20 years ago, I have been working to educate the gay community about the hazardous community about the hazardous link of poppers and AIDS under the name the Committee to Monitor Poppers," he wrote in a guest opinion piece last month in the Bay Area Reporter. "All nitrite poppers dilate blood vessels. This not only causes the headaches, but also makes unsafe sex even less

"Mostly it's been frustrating," he said of the campaign, aimed at getting stores to stop selling the products. "It should be one of the easier pieces of the puzzle to

Such products continue to be readily available, despite a federal ban, and federal authorities have done little in the way of prosecuting businesses that sell the prod-

ing businesses that sell the prod-ucts, he said.

Over the years, Wilson has helped found many organizations, including Community United Against Violence, the AIDS Can-dlelight Vigil, and the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, where he has worked for the last two and a half wears.

"I was on SSI disability for several years," Wilson said. "Now, I'm back at work."

Wilson was also an early and

Wilson was also an early and forceful advocate for gays carrying whistles to help protect themselves in the event of a gay bashing. During the 1999 mayor's race, Wilson spearheaded the write-in campaign for Ammiano. Ammiano shocked the city when he garnered enough votes to put him in a runoff with Mayor Willie Brown.

"I did it without Tom's permission," Wilson said of his efforts to get people to write Ammiano's name on the ballot. "It was an ex-citing thing. We captured the community's imagination and did it on less than \$15,000."

community's imagination and didit on less than \$15,000."

Brown won the runoff, and
now, four years later, Ammiano is
again running for mayor.

Wilson said he's humbled by
the grand marshal honor, noting
that he has worked with many
people over the years around
AIDS and the community's response to the epidemic. "There's a
lot of sadness, people are dead."

A recent trip to Yosemite
brought it all home, he said.

"I was hiking by myself and
hiking with others. It's easier to
hike with others. That's a lesson
for the community – if people can
just find that small group of people to work with."

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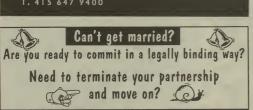
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### **North Bay**

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missioners. He also has won the support of many townspeople this year by being the sole councilman to oppose the building of a natural gas plant on the city's Mare Island, a decommissioned naval base.

a decommissioned naval base.

"I became a big, I wouldn't say hero so to speak, but I think more than ever it made people realize what a non-issue the sexual orientation was," said Cloutier, who serves as the city's vice mayor.

"They knew I was doing my job, which was to represent what people wanted. My sexual orientation at that point faded into oblivion."

Now as he prepares to run for re-election this fall, this time as an out eaw man. Cloutier is the one to

out gay man, Cloutier is the one to beat. Not only is he confident he will serve another four years but Cloutier is already planning for a mayoral run at the end of his second term when the current mayor will be termed out of office.

Cloutier's confidence about his political future stems not from bravado, but from the reality that in his city, a 45-minute ferry ride from San Francisco, a gay revolu-

tion of sorts is under way.
"There has been a large influx of gay people from San Francisco the last several years to the point that the gay community is becom-ing a political factor here to an exthat is wasn't before," said Cloutier. "It is still coming into being here and I think that the gay community here doesn't yet understand that it is becoming a political force and factor.'

litical force and factor."

Call it an invisible march on City Hall, for you won't find a gay Pride parade winding its way through town this month. Though there is a political mobilization going on in Vallejo.

It is occurring in the gay garden club, and at the gay potluck group that in two years' time has grown from 50 people to more than 400. And it is happening along Main Street, where gay en-

trepreneurs are restoring old buildings to their grandeur and

buildings to their grandeur and opening new businesses.

"The other thing going on here, and one reason why we have acceptance from the community, is all these gay couples are fixing up these beautiful homes," said Cloutier. "It makes a significant difference in the quality of life in the neighborhoods."

While most of Vallejo's gay

the neighborhoods."

While most of Vallejo's gay community prefers not to be vocal or see their names publicized for political reasons or campaigns, they are gaining considerable clout within town, said Cloutier.

"To me that signifies that people don't yet realize they are becoming a political force that can

coming a political force that can win elections and that candidates

win elections and that candidates will be seeking their votes," he said. "They can vote as a bloc vote. It could be important. "To me, you can't be gay and not be political in this society," added Cloutier. "That is the way I look at it though not everyone." look at it, though not everyone does." ▼

### Santa Cruz

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opponent who said she's vote for me."

Pinheiro has a daughter, Tami, who just graduated from the Uni-versity of California, Davis, and lives with her partner of eight years, Darlene Wilcox, who is a teacher in another school district. Currently, Pinheiro works as an assistant director for Community TV of Santa Cruz County.

#### Slow to change

Despite the progress on LGBT issues and her years of activism, some things are slow to change, Pinheiro said.

The day after the Pride Parade, she said, the Santa Cruz Sentinel ran a front page photo of Pinheiro and Wilcox kissing at the domestic partner ceremony that was held

partner ceremony that was held during the Pride festival. "I've gotten a couple of griefs over it," she said, but added she doesn't see a problem. After all, she noted, former Vice President Al Gore famously kissed his wife,

Tipper, during the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

Staff clip and post stories and photos pertaining to the district, Pinheiro explained, but apparently a receptionist refused to display the kind of the statement of the stateme

"If you kiss, that's crossing the line," Pinheiro noted.

line," Pinheiro noted.

"If you kiss, that's crossing the line," Pinheiro noted.

Others tried to make a joke about it at the TV station. "Someone said, 'Oh, there's the girl who was kissing in the newspaper, next to a naked person' in a really condescending manner. One of the girls [in the photo] had her top off?" Pinheiro said.

off," Pinheiro said.
On the flip side, when a district employee transitioned, Pinheiro said, it wasn't that big of a deal. "I brought in Dana Rivers [a

transgender activist who had lost her job teaching when she transi-tioned] and when he [the employtellife and when the three impor-ee I transitioned, we met with groups who needed to know. In my opinion, the people who took it the hardest were the stereotypi-cal office ladies – they're tradi-tionally underpaid and underval-

ued.
"Our greatest accomplishment was the maintenance and opera-tions guys. They're beer-drinking guys and they practically came up and said, 'like cool, dude.' It was just hilarious. If a man had transitioned to a woman, they probably wouldn't have handled that at all," she said.

Pinheiro said that the murder 25 years ago of the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk "tends to make us all stronger." "You think, 'What can I do?

How do you create social change?"

Pinheiro used the recent Santa

Cruz Pride event to create some change of her own. She brought a straight school board member

with her.

"He'd never been to gay Pride before. I think he learned a lot. He before. I think he learned a lot. He wore a marriage equality sticker and later wore it to our Measure B party," she said, referring to a ballot measure for a parcel tax that was voted on by residents June 3. The funding would help public schools, and the measure passed.  $\blacktriangledown$ 

## **Lawrence Wong**

**◄** page **51** 

without its struggles. Wong made headlines in the early 1990s when fellow Human Rights Commissioner Eugene Lumpkin made a public remark that seemed to en-dorse the stoning death of homo-sexuals. Wong called on Lumpkin to apologize or resign, and then-Mayor Frank Jordan, upset by the publicity, chose not to reappoint Wong once his term expired. A job was lost, but a political career

Voters first elected Wong to the City College board in 1994, making him the first openly gay

Asian elected official in the Unit-ed States. It is an honor, he said, that he has not taken lightly. From this position he created mandato-ry LGBT sensitivity workshops

ry LEB1 sensitivity workshops for college employees, and fought to keep funding for the college's HIV testing and education.

"We're talking about really fundamental changes," said Wong, "that were able to happen because of who was on the beard."

Wong is also proud that the college's prestigious queer studies program offers courses that address issues for LGBT racial minorities. Racism, after all, is not absent from the queer communi-

"It's a big issue that's almost unrecognized. It's clearly subtle, and come across as something as simple as what is perceived as attractive," said Wong, who thinks the recent racist flaps at the clothing store Abercrombie & Fitch ing store Abercrombie & Fitch clearly illustrate this point. The gay-popular store, now facing a lawsuit for allegedly not employing those who don't have an "American look," also created an uproar last year for a line of T-shirts imprinted with stereotypical Asian images. "Two Wongs can make it white," was one sloan on a Teshirt for a Chinges. gan on a T-shirt for a Chinese laundry.

Asian stereotypes within the gay community might include the tendency to feminize Asian

men, or to assume that all Asians are bottoms, said Wong, who doesn't mind it when some men prefer to date Asians, as long as it's out of appreciation and not condescending.

For Wong the issues of racism and homophobia are a matter of education, and how to provide various communities with the information they need to treat others fairly.

formation they need to treat others fairly.

"That's why it's such a privilege," he said, "to be a part of the community college board."

Current projects in the works for CCSF include new campuses in the Mission and North Beach, which will provide opportunities to thousands more students.

But the college is also awaiting at least \$5 million in budget cuts,

at least \$5 million in budget cuts which for Wong means people are not getting access to skills and jobs, an issue he takes personally. There's much to do as a City College board member. And

College board member. And Wong, for the past nine years, has loved it.

I get to be involved in peo-"I get to be involved in peo-ple's lives to such an extent that it impacts their futures," said Wong, who has not, as of yet, considered additional political options. "The college board isn't sexy like the Board of Supervisors," he laughed, "but making education accessible and affordable at this level helps people's degrees come

level helps people's dreams come true. What a privilege to participate in that process."



# **Out Contra Costa County clerk-recorder** Stephen Weir works for marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

Clerk-Recorder, Stephen Weir would love nothing more than to issue himself and his partner of 14 years a marriage certificate.

"I am the commissioner of mar-

"I am the commissioner of mar-riage in my county and I can't even issue us a marriage license," noted Weir, 54, who lives in Concord. The couple was the 49th to register as domestic partners with the state. Because of state law (the Knight initiative), which defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman, it is illegal for gay men and lesbian couples to legal-ly wed.

The irony that it is legal, how-ever, for a gay man or lesbian to issue marriage certificates to het-erosexuals is not lost on Weir. Yet

crepancy inherent in his role.

"In my private life I may not like it, but it is defined by Califorinke it, but it is defined by Califor-nia law. If I were to issue us a mar-riage license I would be violating my own oath of office to uphold the laws of California. Period," said Weir.

Nor can Weir change the predicament in which he finds himself. Unlike when he served on the Concord City Council during the 1980s and could make policy decisions, in his current role he can only carry out the policies other lawmakers set.

"I have spent 30 years of my life in directly elected public of-fice. I understand the role of tak-ing policy positions. But I now work for the California Legislature. I took the clerk job knowing there is virtually no policy decisions in that job," he said. There is hope that someday Weir could indeed issue that marriage certificate to not only himself but other gay and lesbian couples. With Canada legalizing gay marriage, it is inevitable that court challenges will be brought against the so-called Defense of Marriage Acts enacted by numerous states and the federal government.

Already the issue is making its

Already the issue is making its way through courts in several states. On Friday, June 27 oral arguments begin in a New Jersey case where seven gay couples have sued to get marriage licenses. And in July, the Massachusetts Supreme Court is expected to hand down its ruling on whether gay marriages should be legalized in that state.

In Sacramento this summer,

In Sacramento this summer, the state Senate is set to pass AB205, a sweeping domestic part-ner bill that would grant gay couples nearly all the rights afforded by the state to straight married couples. If signed into law by Gov-ernor Gray Davis this fall, the bill would elevate California's domestic partnerships to the same status as Vermont's civil unions. Groups fighting for full marriage rights in California have said they expect to see that day come in five years.

There are entities that recog rize domestic partners. Is it the same as marriage? No," said Weir.
"One can get close to it by doing your own legal contracts. And if you look at where it is getting to, resistance to gay marriage is being whittled away at every year." ▼



Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder Stephen Weir

### **East Bay**

■ page 45

ley is having housing and mixeduse projects," he said.

Worthington is either 48 or 49. He is not sure of his age because he was adopted. He was first elected to the City Council in 1996 and re-elected last year.

It is estimated the project could cost upwards of \$15 million and take as long as 10 years to be realized. Worthington would like to see the city donate the land for the building, which could then be leveraged to raise contributions.

"It is not a gargantuan project but it is sizable," he remarked. "Already, developers have expressed interest in doing it."

It would be a year-round visible marker that a gay community exists in Berkeley's yearly Pride celebration brunch, held on the Monday of Labor Day weekend, draws quite a grownd. And a growing number of Labor Day weekend, draws quite a crowd. And a growing number of Berkelevites are turning more of their attention to their hometown rather than the gay mecca found on the other side of the Bay Bridge.

"Most of our people spend their gay activism in San Francis-



Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington

co. Most of their energy is in groups in San Francisco. Slowly, we are increasing the amount of activity here rather than in San Francisco," said Worthington. "Those gay Pride events have brought together hundreds of gay and lesbian people. It is very good for community building to have those events. It is one of the few gay and lesbian events that has a wide range of races, all actively getting together."

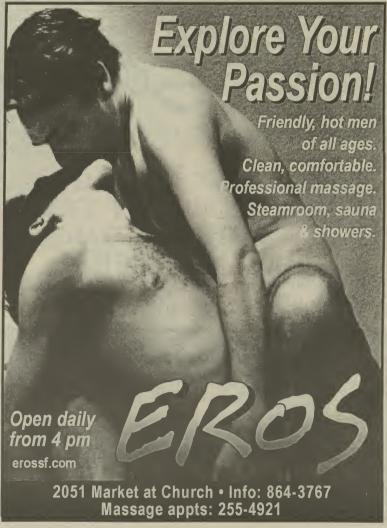
These gay community-building

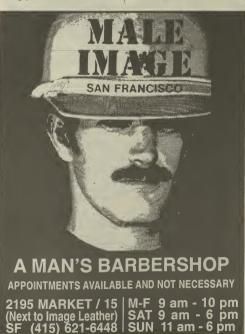
ideas also symbolize how integrated gays and lesbians are becoming in communities big and small. No longer do younger, or even older, LGBT people feel the only place they can be gay is in a big city.

"We are starting to see a shift where people say 'I don't want to go away to the gay zone to be gay." There is a growing notion that you can just be out in Oakland," said Kaulan. "You can see women

said Kaplan. "You can see women couples holding hands around the lake. The community is here." ▼







## Mayor's race

hand-picked police chief without question, are a big deal for Leal.

"We need a mayor who is not afraid to be independent," said Leal, who cited the police case as an example of government ethics gone awry. "It's possible to sup-port the person who was appointed, while at the same time quickly investigating what's wrong." If elected, Leal will be the city's

first lesbian mayor, and the first Latina to become mayor of a

"This is a candidacy that will break many barriers. But it's also one of inclusion," said Leal. "It's not of the left, and not of the right, it's about moving forward, and his inging rescale together."

right, it's about moving forward, and bringing people together."
She's not running on her identity, which already places her among several diverse populations, including the LGBT community, people of color, parents, women, and working mothers. Leal is running on her record, which is extensive, although self-admittedly, not sive, although self-admittedly, not "packaged" neatly for political sound bites. As a supervisor from 1993-97, she co-authored the city's landmark domestic partners bill; authored the "Muni Riders" Bill of Pichter, "excured the Film Muni. authored the Muni Riders Bill of Rights;" secured the F-line Muni expansion to the Castro; and added protections to the stadium bill to ensure that its developers paid their fair share to the city.

Her last five years in office have been as city treasurer, where she manages San Francisco's nearly \$3 billion investment portfolio and has produced, through socially responsible investing, a greater return than any major county and the state. She has also doubled the collection of delinquent business taxes

and cracked down on corporate fraud. These achievements frame her campaign, which promises to close the budget gap, grow city revenues, and attract businesses, with all the pieces fitting together to support sustainable wages, accessible services, and affordable housing for San Franciscans.

Well spoken and put together, Leal also carries a subtle conversa-tional smirk that seems to indicate she's not just listening to, but studying, people. It's almost an art, the slow and steady attention she gives to others while her cell phone rings and the next campaign event is just minutes away. That is, after all, what she wants this race to be about: the chance to make real connections and resonate with those who have been looking for a mayoral candidate that (sometimes quite literally) speaks to them.

"I'm not running against this mayor. I'm not running against other candidates," said Leal. "I'm running because I can do the job.'

If there could be an unofficial slogan to Jim Reid's political career, it might go something like this: "Size matters."

reer, it might go something like this: "Size matters."

The openly gay Reid, a building contractor by trade, has built his image and garnered his media coverage on tiny little ideas.

First there were the miniature houses for real-sized people: those 10-foot fully equipped boxes he built from scratch and wants to install all over the city as a solution to homelessness. Next came the miniature car, the green electhe miniature car, the green electric vehicle he drives through San Francisco as an environment-friendly politician cruising for votes; this sight has become so common he was depicted in a San



Mayoral candidate Jim Reid

Francisco Chronicle cartoon as

Francisco Chronicle cartoon as speeding past the other mayoral candidates while they were busy bickering with each other.

"What that cartoon says is that I have the ability to whiz right past the other candidates," said Reid, "because I'm below their radar."

Now there's his campaign office at 1155 Market Street, which at 120 square feet appears to be bustling

square feet appears to be bustling with activity any time more than with activity any time more than two people are inside. A former flower shop, the office keeps hot dogs, apples, and sodas in the coolers once reserved for tulips and pansies. The window displays an enlarged photograph of the temporary shelter shacks built after the 1906 earthquake, a close-quarters campground that is nothing short of genius to Reid. And his volundary and the short of genius to Reid. And his volundary and the short of genius to Reid. of genius to Reid. And his volun-teers – who have to take turns ducking in and out of headquar-ters – include local homeless peo-ple, jobless youth, and strangers he

picked up on the bus. Some people think Jim Reid is crazy. That's okay, as long as it gets them interested in his master plan

for San Francisco, which includes sealing the pollution at Bay View Hunter's Point and using the land for large development of little homes for everyone, purchasable through a community trust.

"There area so many artists out there now. They could buy a small house and live out there, and open their studios to the public," said Reid, envisioning the next New Orleans on the neglected water-front. "It will be a place where tourists travel to see and buy the work of locals."

work of locals."
Reid is running for mayor.
Again. And drawing inspiration
from Harvey Milk's multiple runs
for office before finally winning
his supervisor's race in 1977, Reid
has a good feeling about his fifth
attempt at elected public office.
"I identify a lot with Harvey,"
said Reid, and not just because he
is the eternal campaigner. "I feel
that my purpose is to bring hope
to those who have lost it."

#### Gay candidates today

All of the openly LGBT candidates running for mayor have been influenced by Harvey Milk. And all of them know that the work Milk started is still far from

work Milk started is still far from being finished.

For Ammiano, who as a teacher worked with Milk to fight the homophobic Briggs initiative in the 1970s, Milk's vision and message instilled in him a broad view of civil rights and the belief that it is possible to be both an activist and politician.

"He really meant it when he said 'coalition,'" said Ammiano, noting that many of Milk's concepts, while ahead of their time, are becoming public policy today.

are becoming public policy today.
"He talked about a living wage back then. He talked about healthcare for everyone, women's rights, and labor struggles. And he was no stranger to the transgender issue. He got it."

An exhibit at the GLBT Histor-ical Society reinforced Milk's influ-

ence upon Ammiano, who believes that people should continue to be that people should continue to be angry about homophobia, not simply because of its deep roots on hatred, "but because it is so petty. So often it is about proving things like 'Tm a real man," he said.

Like Milk, Ammiano is also often ostracized by what some refer to as "the gay establishment." Being "too gay," said Ammiano, can still be a detriment, even within the LGBT community.

For Leal, who was working in

For Leal, who was working in Washington, D.C. at the time of Milk's 1978 murder, knowing who

Milk's 1978 murder, knowing who he was and what was happening in her hometown of San Francisco provided her with inspiration.

"What he did – and the ground that he broke – definitely influences me," said Leal. "He set the tone for the city in many ways. So now, when I'm running for mayor as a guer Latina, a significant as a queer Latina, a significant barrier has already been broken." Yet Leal acknowledges that ho-

mophobia continues to exist in San

mophobia continues to exist in San Francisco. For her, it has been subtle. "The 'lesbian thing' comes up quietly," said Leal. "I can count on the fact that there are some people in this city who won't vote for me because I'm a lesbian." This sentiment manifests itself, said Leal, "in phrases like, 'Well, the other candidate really understands me." stands me

For Ammiano, the homopho-bic attacks have been more bla-tant. In the last mayor's race, for instance, everything from his dis-tinctly inflected voice to his "anti-Catholic" support for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence became a campaign issue for his opponents.

Ammiano tends to try to counter homophobic campaigning with an achievement that will overshadow the attacks. Battling

every homophobic remark on the campaign trail can be counterproductive, he said, noting that during the last citywide election for

ductive, he said, noting that during the last citywide election for supervisor he had the most votes, "and I spoke with the same voice."

But homophobic stereotypes and attacks do need to be addressed by the community at large, he said.

"I'm all for caricature and humor," said Ammiano. "But these things do accumulate, to the point that a gay candidate may not be taken seriously."

For Reid, homophobia is not an issue, he said. But being gay no doubt influences his beliefs, and is probably a factor in some of his more sex-positive ideas. He wants to create a "floating red light district" on a cruise ship, for instance, that regulates prostitution and ensures housing, health, and child care for sex workers. And he is open to lifting the ban on bathouses, despite his personally more conservative sexual practices.

Being a gay politician in San Francisco is also interesting because political lines aren't drawn as much by sexuality as they are by class. In the last election, most LGBT politic

by sexuality as they are by class. In the last election, most LGBT politithe last election, most LGG1 pout-cos, although pre-committed, threw heavy support behind Mayor Brown instead of Ammiano. So while all three candidates have pro-gay credits on their résumés, none have been required to make sexual orientation issues the platform of their campaign.

have been required to make sexual orientation issues the platform of their campaign.

If anything, the next mayoral election will be heavily focused on housing and homelessness in the midst of the economic bust. None of the three gay candidates supported mayoral candidate and Supervisor Gavin Newsom's "Care Not Cash" initiative, which voters passed as Proposition N last November. Proposition N was supposed to cut welfare checks in exchange for housing and services. A California judge recently ruled Proposition N unconstitutional, so Newsom's plan is currently in limbo, particularly as city budget cuts make providing the "care" part of the plan difficult.

"The care's not there," said Leal, who spent her energy trying to push affordable housing, believing that Newsom's plan did not address the needs of the mentally ill homeless.

Ammiano, who was criticized for introducing what some called the "last-minute" homeless ballot measure Proposition O, in fact simply took the elements of policy already negotiated citywide and placed them on the ballot in order to balance out the sure-victory of Proposition N. Now, as supervi-sors examine how to implement Newsom's plan, some have re-marked that the compromise looks more and more like Ammi-

looks more and more like Ammiano's Proposition N.

"Proposition N is showing itself for what it is," said Ammiano.
"You don't get solutions to a problem like homelessness by making
it a campaign plank."

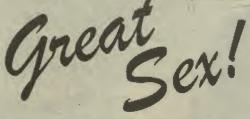
"Proposed solutions to problems do come from a real need,"
said Ammiano. "And eventually, if

said Ammiano. "And eventually, if the need remains, the workable solutions will become policy." For all the openly gay mayoral candidates, the election in No-vember is an exciting opportuni-ty, not just for themselves person-ally, but for the LGBT community. "There's a certain dynamic, as a

"There's a certain dynamic, as a gay candidate, that may always be there," said Ammiano, "but in the meantime it's just about real people." Reid cannot contain his enthu-siasm for what he sees as a likely

win for the community in No

San Francisco is long overdue "San Francisco is long of for a gay or lesbian mayor," said Reid with a smile. "And I think we're going to get one this time.



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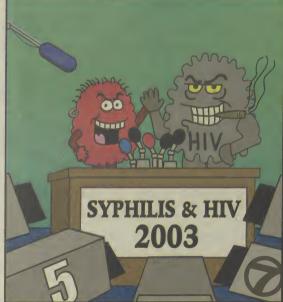


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School's out, so is Anna Two new documentaries from Bailey & Barbato.

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Closing nights ahead Last weekend of 27th SFILGFF: 'Rock & Roll!'

page 67





Vol. 33 · No. 26 · 26 June 2003

# Author Armistead Maupin and comic Marga Gomez are Pride celebrity Grand Marshals



by Richard Dodds

rmistead Maupin, a Grand Marshal of the 2003 Pride Parade, re-called hanging out with his illustrious predecessor during last year's

festivities.

"When I walked around town with Ian MacKellen, it was quite an experience," Maupin said. "He's a babe magnet. You'd be surprised at how many twentysomethings want to play tonsil-hockey with Gandalf just so they can tell their friends."

Does Maupin, author of the Tales of the City novels, expect a similar reaction? "No!" he shouted, almost, before breaking into one of his generous laughs. "But people are nice to me at the Cala. I get a lot of feedback from my brothers and sisters, and it makes me feel really great."

This will be Maupin's second time as a Grand Marshal, a designation he accepts with pride and a sense of humor. "The experience is a high regardless of where I'm sitting," he said of the annual celebration. "It will be even more fun in the Miss America position on the back of a convert-page 74 page 74

by Adam Sandel

ast year's Celebrity Grand Marshal for San Francisco LGBT Pride was Sir Ian McKellen. This year, it's Marga Gomez. What a difference

The Latina lesbian comic and performance artist doesn't stand much of a chance of being knighted by the Queen of England, but since the New York-born Gomez got her start in San Francisco, she can lay claim to the title of Local Chica Who Made Good.

Claim to the title of Local Chica Who Made Good.

When Gomez got an e-mail from her agent telling her she'd been selected as Celebrity Grand Marshal, she thought it was a mistake. But since then, she's gotten to like the idea.

"I'm thinking Marshal Dillon from the old Gunsmoke TV show. It means a badge, leather vest, 10-gallon hat, chaps. You know, your basic South of Market look," she says. "I'm a Marshal! I make the laws. I date a barmaid at a saloon. Woo hoo, It's an honor."

The writer professioners of since parson shows which have been parson.

The writer/performer of six one-person shows which have been pro-

page 75 ▶

# All together now: 'Glad to be gay!'

Let's add the whole alphabet to LGBT Pride

by Roberto Friedman

elcome back to San Fran-cisco to any and all gay tourists who might be out cisco to any and all gay tourists who might be out there. Yes, it's just about Pri Time for **LGBT Pride**, and

we can safely say the SF gay community is ready for the party. But to those gay out-of-town-ers who haven't been back here for a while, perhaps we may offer a slightly extended metaphor about our homo home-town San Francisco **Out There** is an aging dowager

who is maybe a little bit down on her luck, maybe a little bit light in her pockeybook. But under the caked makeup and the false eye-

A face in Faerie Village in 2002.

lashes, the old girl can still light up

lashes, the old girl can still ught up a ballroom or a barroom — provided there's the right lighting.

Think of post-dot-bomb SF as a remake of *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, only the old lady is still reeling because her beloved gigolo has up and left her, in a nile of empty bot-

in a pile of empty bot-tles and worthless stock options. That's okay, the boy was liv-ing in a speculative bubble anyway. He was a business plan on a cocktail napkin, he was a

sock puppet as the company figure-head, but he sure

Still, through it all, **Dame**Eseff has kept her chin(s) up. For
the best thing about our little
cowtown by far is: Whoever you are and wherever you come from, we have room for you. That's why one San Franciscan thinks we need to add an F to the LGBT alphabet, to stand for Faggots. And another one thinks we ought to add an M, for Mamas. Why not just pile on the E, for Everyone the slightest bit bent, and you get LGBT-FEM Pride. We feel it.

#### Capturing the Judy

Back by popular demand, Imagine Judy Garland: An Evening with Connie Champagne is currently in the midst of a week-long run at the Plush Room, through Sunday. In her act, direct-



Connie does Judy and beyond,

ed by **F. Allen Sawyer** (musical direction by **Joe Collins** and **Billy Philadelphia**), Champagne imag-ines the repertoire that Judy would be singing were she alive today. The from the classic Garland canon (Joni Mitchell's "A Case of You")

(Joni Mitchell's "A Case of You") to great big, flying leaps into speculative thinking (Freddy Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody").

An Imagine Judy Garland CD produced by Castrobear Harry Lit digitally captures the sounds of Champagne at the Plush. Its cover art, designed by Richard D. Dupler, looks like a classic '60s LP cover, and the set includes Judyish renditions of William Finn's "Republicans," Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," and Stephen Sondheim's classic "Being Alive." heim's classic "Being Alive.

The following four paragraphs are lifted directly from Sawyer's stage-show program notes, enti-tled "The Original Riot Girl," sort of a primer in gay liberation on the

occasion of the gay high holidays.
"On Friday, June 27, 1969, Judy
Garland's body lay in state at
Frank Campbell's Funeral

Home, New York City.

"After waiting in line all day many in heels! — to pay their respects to Judy, a diverse group of queer folks retired to a favorite watering hole on Christopher Street to drink a toast to their fall-

en idol.

"The police, in those days, routinely raided queer bars (which were controlled in large part by the Mafia), in an effort to extort money. As they pulled up in their patrol cars to the Stonewall Inn, these cops had no idea how bad their timing would be.

"The patrons — many of whom were drag queens, hustlers, gender queer folk, transsexual women, and minors — channeled their grief and anger into a little event called the Stonewall Riots."

their grief and anger into a fittle event called the Stonewall Riots." The Plush Room is located in the York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Reservations are suggested, at (415) 885-2800.

#### Venetian view

Art critic Howard Jacobson, at the Venice Biennale, writes in the UK Guardian: "I am pleased to run into **Grayson Perry**, whose

shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize, but who is here in another capacity, dressed, for reasons I am

"An unnerving man at any time, he is particularly unsettling with a pink ribbon in his hair and pretty ankle socks. See Perry in his man's attire and you can easily imagine him gamboling as a deli-cate girl-child, but transvested he looks uncompromisingly, not to say unplayfully male. Why I should enjoy his conversation less when he is being Claire than when he is being Grayson I cannot say, but I don't doubt it's my fault. Just as I don't doubt it is his intention I should think that. So if the best art is that which makes you feel uncomfortable, Grayson Perry is your girl." File under: Why we're glad we don't run around in International Art circles.

#### **Common scents**

Veteran Village Voice gossipist Michael Musto claimed last week Michael Musto claimed last week that the ceremonies for the FiFi Awards for fragrance began to resemble a real-life AbFab episode—something on the order, Out There imagines, of the PR-PR Awards. Musto wrote that he was overcome by the event's olfactory overload, compounded by the fact that "the

compounded by the fact that the woman in front of me reeked."
"At the dinner afterward, cute presenter Mario Lopez from *The Other Half* told me, 'I'm a big cologne whore. I like a clean smell,



By Jonathan Wilson

Salam Shalom.... A Tale of Passion

You Should Be So Lucky By Charles Busch

#### Breakfast With Scot

By Michael Downing based on his novel

SEDUCTION

By Jack Heifner

#### A Man of No Importance

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# Saved the best for last?

SFILGFF '03 wraps up through Sunday

by David Lamble

he last four days of the 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, June 26-29, continue the line-up of queer movies from around the world. Following are eight highlights from among the feature and short films.



Serial-love junky in Totally Sexy..

Totally Sexy Loser "Cowboys are the last real men in the world, but they're as reliable as jackrabbits." In The Misfits, Arthur Miller writes this tart bit of advice for Thelma Ritter's gravely rasp, into the ears of Miller's soon-to-be exife, Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn's in Reno to get unhitched, and while there, she falls under the spell of the last of the great cowboys, one Gay Langland, a role that was literally the death of Clark Gable. The Misfits is a parable about the death of myths: the iconic screen star, the blonde bombshell, the virile cowboy, the endless frontier, and the only town in America where a gal can regain her freedom.

As Canada becomes the gay Reno, writer/director Jason Schafer offers a short, tart parable for our times. Schafer gives us Jeremy, 21st-century Supercad, whose trademark one-liner echoes across the great gay dating lanes from Chicago to Moscow to Palm Springs. "You're not in love with me, you just think you are." When we meet Jeremy (Chad Lindsey), he's dumping the vulnerable Chip (Mark DeWhitt) for the fresher Evan. All of Jeremy's 44

When we meet Jeremy (Chad Lindsey), he's dumping the vulnerable Chip (Mark DeWhitt) for the fresher Evan. All of Jeremy's 44 or so exes seem to be five years younger, making them catnip for this serial-love junky. Evan (Craig Young), though, is made of sterner stuff, and refuses Jeremy's pleas that they break up. Jeremy has to resort to truly desperate measures to subvert this relationship, giving Totally Sexy Loser just a bit of the screwball flavor of a Cary Grant multiple-spouse comedy, say The Awful Truth.

Schafer (who wrote the ineffa-

Awful Truth.

Schafer (who wrote the ineffably romantic Trick and early episodes of Queer As Folk) provides a darkly funny cautionary tale for a time when queer marriage and divorce are the rage from Halifax to Saskatoon. (Castro, 6/26)

Prey for Rock & Roll "Tonight, we made \$13.50 each, not even enough to support my eyeliner habit. I'm a 40-year-old woman chasing a teenage dream." A dream cast: Gina Gershon (Bound), Drea de Matteo (The Sopranos) and Lori Petty (Relax...It's Just Sex) give us the rollercoaster highs and lows of an all-girl rock band, the kind of group whose members tell ya who they've



Scene from Prey for Rock & Roll

"opened" for as they pack their equipment into a battered van on a rainy night outside of the Bottom of the Hill.

tom of the Hill.

Based on the play and true-life adventures of rock singer/tattoo artist Cheri Lovedog, Prey for Rock and Roll (from Alex Steyermark and Steven Trask of Hedwig and the Angry Inch) is the late-'80s LA club-scene story of four women who took a bit too seriously Neil Young's famous dictum, "It's better to burn out than it is to rust." (Castro, Closing Night, 6/29)



French heartbreaker You'll Get..

You'll Get Over It Yet another sexy French heartbreaker. The sultry Julien Baumgartner heads up an appealing cast in a Gallic version of Edge of Seventeen. Screenwriter Vincent Molina personalizes this high-school coming-out story to the point of having the homophobic graffiti read, "Molina is a fag!"

Vincent seems to have every-

Na is a tag:

Vincent seems to have everything a 17-year-old boy could want. He's the star of the swimming team, who gets to shower naked with his adrenaline-fueled teammates. He has a perfect shoulder-to-cry-on trophy girl-friend, an out-of-sight college boyfriend, parents who dote on him, and nothing but perfect hair days. If you have to be an op-

ooytrend, parents who dote on him, and nothing but perfect hair days. If you have to be an oppressed teen, this is the way to go.

The film's big plus, besides underwater swimming shots, is lead Baumgartner's ability to project Vincent's topsy-turvy inner life. (Castro, 6/27 & 28)

Tasty Bits This overly long but spicy Russian video features Grieflike soap opera hijinks behind the scenes of a Moscow pop radio station. The best moments are the screwball romance between Julia (blonde go-getter Julia Muranova) and exotic dancer Tanya (the darkly seductive Tanya Ayokhina) and the on-air by-play between Julia and her puckish co-host Roman (Roman Erykalov).

As you can tell by the fact that the leads kept their own names, *Tasty Bits* has an appealing off-the-cuff quality that is undercut



Off-the-cuff: Russian Tasty Bits

only by an overlong melodramatic plot that beats us to a pulp with the stuff we've always known about those wacky Russians. (Castro, 6/27)



Awake & Asleep Guys in Target...

Spoofed! Target Audience One of the niftiest shorts ever conceived: a young slacker (off-off Broadway actor/playwright Steven Howley, identified only as Awake Guy) is watching the dying embers of a Saturday-night slasher TV feature, sharing the couch with a comatose buddy (Asleep Guy, Ryan Dietz), when he's suddenly confronted with the ultimate infomercial. Every bad joke about the fears and perils of entering "the life" are hilariously explored, including a malfunctioning remote control and a sleepy mouth that is kissing-close.

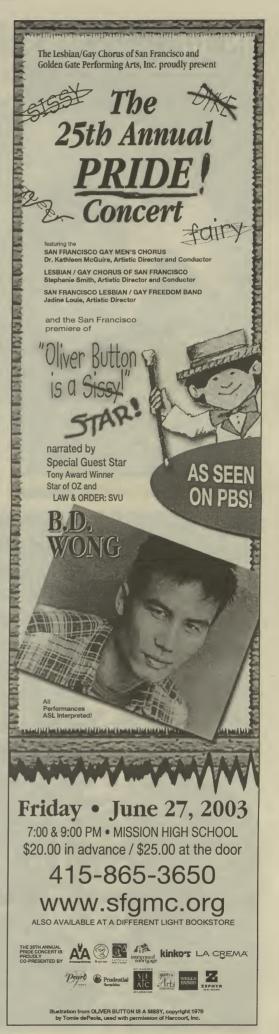


Dr. Winston & Billy in Masturbation

Masturbation: Putting the Fun into Self-Loving The axiom that a boy's best friend is his right hand is presented as a newly-found '50s-style hygiene lecture. Dr. Sigmund Winston and his teenage sidekick Billy illustrate some intriguing uses for plastic baggies and overstuffed mattresses. (Herbst, 6/27)

Merci Docteur Rey Andrew Litvackhe is a protégé of Ismail Merchant via Maurice and Howard's End. His debut feature is an improbably funny concoction of lust, noir and off-beat comedy, as a handsome French guy, Thomas (Stanislas Merhar), discovers adventure, true man love, and the

page 86



# IN JUST 2 WEEKS the most beloved musical in San Francisco theatre history returns for 8 weeks only. The PHANTOM **OPERA GOOD SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!** Call ticketmaster (415) 512-7770 lable at all Ticketmaster outlets, the Orpheum Theatre ated at 1192 Market at 8th (Mon-Sat 10am to 6pm), tmaster.com. For group information call 415-551-2020 JULY 16 - SEPTEMBER 7 BEST BROUNNY === ORPHEUM THEATRI

# To Weimar and back

SF Symphony fest undoes innocence

by Philip Campbell

nnocence Undone: Wagner, Weill and the Weimar Years ended last week with a smashing concert featuring popular chanteuse Ute Lemper. It was the closing event in

Lemper. It was the closing event in a three-concert San Francisco Symphony festival charting the course of music and politics in Germany leading up to World War II.

The Weimar Republic was a brief window of democracy between wars, and it marked a time of remarkable freedom and experients. imentation in the arts. Leave it to Michael Tilson Thomas to fashion a cogent statement with only three different programs.

The most ambitious was a con The most ambitious was a con-cert staging of Wagner's first fully mature opera, *The Flying Dutch-*man. Striking minimalist costumes, scenic design and cleverly evocative

ilighting rendered it as worthy as many opera house productions.

On a stage with three sails, ringed by maritime light fixtures and crow's nests, director Peter McClintock maneuvered his principals and a huge SFS Chorus with fluidity and theatrical flair. Leading the orchestra on the main floor, Tilson Thomas proved he could rise above Wagner's philo-sophical leanings to dig deeper

into his musical genius.

Jane Eaglen, the Wagner soprano of choice these days, made a sympathetic impression as Senta. Mark Delavan, as the tortured sea-



Jane Eaglen, Wagnerian soprano of choice for The Flying Dutchman

faring Dutchman, created a con-

vincing portrait, strongly sung.

The lackadaisical Steersman, liltingly sung by Eric Cutler, and Senta's greedy father Daland, essayed by Stephen Milling, were also memorable. Mark Baker, as Senta's earthly suitor Erik, slowly unrav-eled vocally until he came embar-rassingly undone in the last act.

Vance George's Chorus made a glorious contribution, throwing themselves into the drama with

themselves into the drama with credible acting and thrilling sound. Their impassioned participation and Delavan's remarkable commitment really made the show.

It didn't hurt that the pit band was the SFs. MTT played with dynamics during the Overture, dawdling here, rushing there, and, for a moment, it was worrying. But, as the evening progressed, he propelled the music with urgency and downright sensuality. His grasp of the opera's musical arc was breathtaking.

#### Less splash

The second program in the se ries was not as splashy and, in some respects, a little dry. Still, for sonic respects, a fittle dry. Sinf, for audiences willing to explore less-er-known works of the period, it proved fascinating. Composer Ernst Toch was born in Vienna and died in Los Angeles.

in Vienna and died in Los Angeles. Lauded in his homeland, he was only moderately successful in the States. He once remarked, "Here, I'm a dachshund. But in the Old Country, I was a St. Bernard."

The Nazis proscribed Toch's music as degenerate. His flight from repression slowed a brilliant career. MTT belatedly redressed the balance by programming two of his works, to make up the largest portion of the concert. The Bunte Suite, Opus 48, turned out to be only fitfully interesting, but the song cycle The Chinese Flute, Opus 29, proved something of a find.

29, proved something of a find. Soprano Laura Claycomb, a soprano Laura Claycomo, a beauty with a spectacular voice and an amazing mop of copperpenny hair, sang the exotic score with just the right balance of bittersweet emotion and delicacy.
Claycomb also gamely tackled Schoenberg's difficult "Herzgewachse" twice. MTT said

"Herzgewachse" twice. M11 said the song is short enough to re-quire two hearings. The soprano crossed herself before the second attempt, but she easily triumphed. The closing program of the se-ries captured the attitude of the pe-riod best of all. It also offered a

chance to catch the excitement and



Lemper essayed cabaret, Sins.

charm of Ute Lemper. Looking charm of Ute Lemper. Looking fabulous and sounding perfectly idiomatic in the repertoire, she justified her cult following and captured more than a few new fans. Songs by Eisler, Spollansky, Weill and Hollaender made up the first part of the concert, for an extended concert set. Lemper her made a concert set.

part of the concert, for an extended cabaret set. Lemper has made a career of this material, and she didn't disappoint. By turns sultry and kittenish, she set 'em up and knocked 'em down. She also showed a winning gift for self-mockery.

There were some serious moments, indicative of the times, and

hemens, indicative of the times, and Lemper let loose with a pure and dramatic soprano. The amplifica-tion was almost painfully loud at first, but the engineers quickly ad-justed the levels. Her encore (and justed the levels. Her encore (and it was mandatory) couldn't have been more fitting on the weekend of the Pride Parade. Belting "Lavender Nights," a funny and thrilling queer anthem that could have been written yesterday, she drove the capacity crowd wild with anyreciation.

with appreciation.
The concert ended with Bertolt Brecht's and Kurt Weill's final collaboration, The Seven Deadly Sins. Lemper, MTT and the SFS certainly know how to sell this piece. The terrific male vocal ensemble Hudson Shad (fashioned after the famous) German Comedian Harmonists) formed the "Family" chorus.

It was a stirring and curiously moving conclusion to a thoroughly enjoyable festival. No one can instruct and entertain with quite the aplomb of MTT.



# Low-octane 'Trovatore' in red velvet

San Francisco Opera production sits down when it shouldn't

by Stephanie von Buchau

he lights shimmer red as the burly baritone, dressed in sea-faring leather, steps forward. His voice is huge, dark, sexy, anguished. The orchestra tries to wash over him, but he outsings them. Even better, he is singing in tune, something the last, overrated protagonist of Wagner's The Flying Dutchman in San Francisco couldn't do. At the break, my giddy companion enthuses, "This is better than any surround-sound home-theater system."

Yes, it is also better than anything we've heard — or seen — lately at the War Memorial Opera House. Because this was not a San Francisco Opera production; it was the San Francisco Symphony's semi-staged concert version of *Dutchman*, better played, better sung and more physically exciting than any opera I'd heard in ages. Across Grove Street, SFO was stinking up the joint with an ineptly staged, poorly conducted and unevenly sung production of Verdi's *II Trovatore* that brought the company, already on its knees, face down in the mud.

Playwright George Bernard Shaw, who moonlighted brilliantly as a London music critic, has many pertinent things to say about Verdi's 17th opera. My favorite is his insight about the elegant, sarcastic, vengeful Count di Luna, though the stricture applies equally to the entire *Trovatore*  cast. GBS claimed, quite seriously, that the Count di Luna should never sit down. Think about it. The act of sitting down implies something normal, realistic (Shaw calls it "vulgar realism"), ordinary, whereas the four main characters in Trovatore are, as someone once said in another context, shot out of guns; avatars of sexual and social violence. They are not real people, they are vessels of raging hormones, and it is impossible to imagine them eating croissants, brushing their teeth, or sitting down.

down.
So what does this "symbolic" production by Nicholas Muni, John Conklin and stage director Brad Dalton have Leonora, the Queen's lady-in-waiting; Azucena, the obsessive gypsy; her heroic son, Manrico; and the choleric Count di Luna do, repeatedly? Sit down. And not only sit down, but sit down in scenes where they should not be in the first place, much less sitting down. It doesn't matter that the chairs they sit on are red velvet of a furniture style many centuries later than the medieval setting of this opera (the anachronistic grand piano on stage is earnestly explained as a "symbol" several times in the program; too late, of course, to inform bewildered viewers).

What matters is that they shouldn't be sitting at all. Not because Shaw was smart enough to figure it out, but because Verdi's white-hot score is too tumultuous for sitting. If it's performed cor-



Marina Mescheriakova (Leonora) and Carlos Alvarez (Count di Luna)

rectly, we can hardly sit still ourselves, yet there was little sense of crisis or climax in the conducting of Marco Armiliato. What's the point of being a young Italian if you don't display any of the delightful excesses of that breed? Armiliato was quick — we escaped 15 minutes before the scheduled curtain — but he wasn't urgent. Nor did he provide much energy or direction to his singers, letting them wander, even in a strenuous piece like the tenor's "Di quella

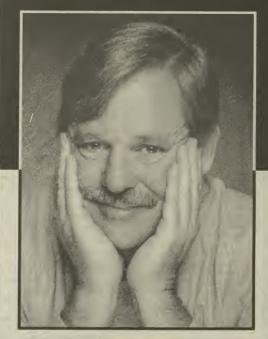
pira," topped with an unwritten high C worth adding only if the listeners don't go, "Phew, he made it." The only ensemble that had the oomph I require in *Trovatore* was the exciting soprano-baritone duet in Act IV ("Vivra!")

#### Trouble in curls

By that time, I was enjoying Carlos Alvarez's over-the-top performance. The voice has a dark, masculine snarl when he is energized, though di Luna's gorgeous "Il balen" had the same grating harshness as the rest of the Spanish baritone's singing. Alvarez, glowering handsomely under a mop of damp curls, nailed di Luna's wide-eyed fanaticism; I would love to see him in a production that made sense (or just coming out of the shower). Tenor Richard Margison always sounds caponish to me in this rep. He's actually good in less strenuous roles, but he insists on singing Calaf and Manrico, which cause so much vocal strain they bleach all the color and character out of his voice.

I'm not sure what to make of soprano Marina Mescheriakova's Leonora. She sounds fine on CDs, which probably means some twiddling of dials, because in real life, her initial recitative was inaudible. This was the third SFO production in a row where the protagonist opened his or her mouth and out came a pip-squeaky sound not suitable for the

next page





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# **Coming home to Alberta Hunter**

Tony winner Ann Duquesnay plays lesbian blues legend at San Jose Rep

by Richard Dodds

ony Award-winner Ann Duquesnay is something of a vocal chameleon. In vari-ous shows, she has sung as Billie Holiday, Ma Rainey, and, most frequently, Alberta Hunter.

In fact, when Duquesnay opens at San Jose Rep in Cookin' at the Cookery:
The Music and Times of Alberta Hunter, it will be the eighth time she has performed in this trib-ute to the late blues leg-

end.
"Alberta had a very similar quality voice to mine," Duques-nay said recently

from her Staten Is-land home. "She had a contralto land home. "She had a contralto voice, and so do I. But my voice is big, so when I'm performing on stage, Ann Duquesnay comes through. Sometimes I catch myself because I'm being a little too big, because I'm playing her as an 82-year-old woman."

Hunter, who died in 1984, becan be carreer in 1911 singing

began her career in 1911 singing at a Chicago bordello, became a popular recording artist in the 1920s, and gave it all up at age 60 to become a nurse. After retiring from nursing, she took to the stage again in 1977, and became an even bigger star the second time around.

Hunter was also a lesbian,

which the show subtly introduces. "I didn't know she was a lesbian until I started the play," Duquesnay said. "We touch on it in the play. It's like a little vignette. It's very quick and very cute. I think the way it's put together is very tastefully done."

In Cookin' at the Cookery,

named for the New York night-club where Hunter made her comeback, Duquesnay shares the stage with Janice Lorraine, who plays nu-merous characters including Louis Arm strong and the young Alberta Hunter. But it's

Duquesnay's show. "I do 12 or 13

songs and never leave the stage," she said. "It's very demanding because you don't get a chance to have a breather. But I have a passion for my work, so I'm up to the chal-

**Backstage** 

Cookery writer-director Mari-Cookery writer-director Marion J. Caffey first approached Duquesnay during her Tony-winning run in Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk. By now she has done the show so many times she feels like a collaborator. "There's some of my stuff in there," she said. "I've given ideas and lines, so I feel very much at home in the show."

Duquesnay's initial prepara-tion came from watching videos of Hunter perform, and reading a



Janice Lorraine shares the stage

book penned by Hunter's pianist. She also had the memories of a

"That was in, like, 1982, at the Cookery," she said. "A friend wanted me to come along to a blues show, and I did not know who this lady Alberta Hunter was. And lady Alberta Hunter was. And when she came out on stage, I was really amazed that she was an el-derly lady. But when she opened her mouth, she had that voice. And she was very flirtatious with the audience. It was a fun evening."

Duquesnay got her own start at an early age, singing gospel at a Harlem church before winning an amateur night at the Apollo Theatre at 16. "They gave me a week's booking after that, so my first real



'Sometimes I catch myself because I'm being a little too big': Duquesnay

professional job was on a bill with big names like Bo Diddley and

Screamin' Jay Hawkins."

In the following Screamin' Jay Hawkins."

In the following years,
Duquesnay recorded several albums "that didn't make any
noise," she said. "I was doing commercials, like Pepsi for six years,
but I never did theater."

That five west it when she took

That fuse was lit when she took That fuse was lit when she took her daughter to see *The Wiz on* Broadway in the mid-'70s. "I sat there and looked at that piece and said, 'God, this is great. How do you get into this business?' I heard about auditions for a tour of *Bub-hing Broam Sugar* with Cab Cal.

about auditions for a four of Bub-bling Brown Sugar with Cab Cal-loway, and I got it."

Duquesnay had a supporting role when, early in the run, a stage light fell on the leading lady. "They came to me and said, 'Ann, you're on.' I never had a rehearsal in her role, but I was on my stuff. I went on and I was quite success-I went on and I was quite successful, and I remember driving home with tears coming down. My father loved Cab Calloway, and I looked up and said, 'Oh, Daddy, did you see me with Cab Calloway?"

Duquesnay's parents had died before their daughter found suc-cess, and emotions were high when she won the Tony Award for

"I thought the young lady from Rent might win, so I made the audience laugh when I got on stage because they could see I was just completely overwhelmed. I held my Tony up and said, 'My mom

and dad never got to see me do this,' and I said, 'Look Ma, Dad, look what I got.' I could see the audience was getting a little teary, and so was I."

Cookin' at the Cookery will run July 2-Aug. 8 at San Jose Rep. Call (408) 367-7255.

#### Water works

The stage will be covered with water, and everyone will have a front-row seat surrounding the big puddle at 'Maid. Crowded Fire is presenting the world premiere of Bay Area playwright Erik Ehn's postmodern variation on The Little Mermaid at the Exit Theatre.

The hose transplanted Harse.

Ehn has transplanted Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale to a war-torn industrial bay, creating a cautionary tale about the price paid for realizing dreams as well as offering the promise of positive change. Beth Wilmurt is playing the mermaid who longs to be human, and Juliet Tanner is a teenager who longs to be mer-

Rebecca Novick is directing the production, which will include an aerial chorus, movement by dance experimenter Dawn Frank, and live musical accompaniment comosed and performed by David

The run is July 11-Aug. 16. Call 675-5995 for tickets. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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#### **Trovatore**

previous page

War Memorial's vast proportions. War Memorial's vast proportions. Her top voice is big enough, but breath support for the mid and lower ranges is weak, she doesn't have a firm legato, and her coloratura is so spotty she shouldn't have attempted the normally omitted cabaletta, "Tu vedrai."

That left Dolora, Guick, the

That left Dolora Zajick, the Reno-based diva who should have been singing here every year since her 1984 debut. She is the best heavy-duty Verdi mezzo in the world today (and remember, I'm an Olga Borodina fan), the only one capable of letting her singing sound instinctive, elemental and crazed all the while maintaining crazed all the while maintaining control of pitch, breath, dynamics. My companion thought she sounded leaner and less plush than a decade ago, but voices evolve. The thing with Zajick is that you can hear every note, she's so musical she conducts her own singing and she can set. Her Azu. singing, and she can act. Her Azu-cena is sly, motherly, vengeful, se-riously deranged but not crazy, and it is not just in her voice, but also in her face and body language. Three more performances like that plus an awake conductor, and I could have endured the red velvet sit-downs. ▼

# The not-so-wonderful wizards of Oz

'Wicked,' at the Curran, needs work before Broadway bow

by Richard Dodds

ith 20 minutes or so sliced from the first act, a new choreographer, and one or two casting changes, Wicked could be on its way to success as an unusual and intriguing new musical. But there is another stumbling block, and it's a big one: the score by Stephen 'Schwartz. Simply put, it's just not good enough.

But out-of-town tryouts seldom if ever bring a change in songwriters. Besides, Schwartz, who clicked in the '70s with Pippin and Godspell, is the prime mover behind turning Gregory Maguire's novel into a musical. Still, there is enough potential that, with some bold doctoring, Wicked might overcome a score that only occasionally emerges that only occasionally emerges from a mushy sameness.

from a mushy sameness.
What makes Wicked a deserving candidate for success is a story far more complex than usually found in the musical theater. Even as simplified and altered by librettist Winnie Holzman from Maguire's novel, the story has density in its characters and detailing. Net superphinis as clear. density in its characters and detailing. Not everything is as clear as it should be, and there are jokes that haven't translated to the stage, but the robustness of the two leading characters, and the force of personality behind their portrayals, help create a momentum that leaves spirits far higher at the final curtain than at the belated intermission.

The clever notion behind

The clever notion behind Wicked is the creation of a back-story for the good and bad witches of Oz. To the musical's credit, it preserves some of Maguire's allegorical political commentary, particularly relevant in these days as "evil" is invoked by politicians to strengthen their hands. As you might imagine, the Wicked Witch of the West turns

the Wicked Witch of the West turns out not to be wicked at all, but rather a convenient pariah named Elphaba (she's crabby and green) whose passion for justice leads her to extreme measures.

And then there's Glinda, the good witch, who starts out as an insufferable prom-queen type who torments Elphaba, her college roommate, before discovering that life is about more than how many pairs of shoes you have in many pairs of shoes you have in the closet.

#### **Button** airs

Kristin Chenoweth is irrewho knows how to tweak her own cute-as-a-button image. As Elpha-ba, Idina Menzel offers potent de-termination, and if her voice goes termination, and if her voice goes shrill in the upper registers, she puts passion into her songs. Chenoweth and Menzel's contrasting styles work well together, and the pair gets the most out of their duet on "For Good," by far the best song in the score.

More often than put the songs.

the best song in the score.

More often than not, the songs are just passable, though there is the occasional stinker like "Which Way's the Party?" which Wayne Cilento's ugly choreography only exacerbates. Remember an episode of Seinfeld where we find out what a bad dancer Elaine is? Well, imagine a stageful of Elaines

well, imagine a stageful of Elaines at an Ozian disco.

Norbert Leo Butz, who's saddled with the "Party" song, is a little too old and a little too un-dashing to play the young and dashing male love interest. Veteran performer Robert Morse turns up a couple of times as the Wizard, giving a fuzzy

performance in an unfocused role.

The production is handsomely housed in Eugene Lee's set of gears and levers and mechanical monand levers and mechanical monsters, but Susan Hilfety's costumes delve into an unattractive side of whimsy. Director Joe Mantello, a recent Tony winner for *Take Me Out*, has staged opera before but is basically a newbie to musical theater, and there are moments when this comes awkwardly through. But even with its flaws, *Wicked* is an amalgamation of enough wit, talent, and energy that, coupled

talent, and energy that, coupled with goodwill from SF audiences, is enough to earn its nightly standing ovations at the Curran. Whether ovations at the curran. Whether that combination will work on Broadway, where the show is to open in the fall, is less certain, un-less the creators are ruthless with themselves and their show.

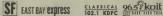
Wicked will run through at the Curran Theatre through June 29. Tickets are \$30-\$85. Call



Kristin Chenoweth is a natural clown as good witch Glinda, here holding forth with the citizens of Oz.



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# **Hellbound club-kids**

It's Macaulay Culkin's party in 'Monster'

by David Lamble

nce upon a time, a golden-haired little boy ruled the world. It was a make-believe kingdom, filled with scary people who showed up when his parents left him on his own. Almost by the time he could walk and talk, he could act. In his first film, the little boy got to ride a bike. He enjoyed the ride so much that he almost didn't want to stop riding and finish the movie. The little boy had a stage father who made the little boy finish a lot of movies, without ever asking who he wanted to be

one day the little boy, now 14, fired his father and ran away from the movies and went to a quiet place where he could be a kid again, a kid home alone with his money, a kid who could see if he

had any dreams to dream.

The kid is, of course, Macaulay
Culkin, who at 22 (and looking 16) is back in the movies, this time in a movie of his own choosing. Party Monster plays the SF Inter-national Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on Saturday night. As club diva Michael Alig, who managed to dominate the New York downtown party scene after the death of Andy Warhol, Culkin plays a dangerous game Alig learned from another club kid, James St. James (Seth Green). A game played with other people's money and other people's drugs is a game that can (and did) come to a bad end.

Like all disaster movies, *Party* 

Like all disaster movies, Party Monster, a first feature from the duo of Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, is a series of carefully crafted illusions. The ultimate disaster — when the misdirected train actually crashes into the glue factory — must be kept from us until the last possible moment, although acertain anount of foreshedowing.

the last possible moment, although a certain amount of foreshadowing is part of the tease, the foreplay.

Bailey and Barbato have specialized in docudramas about ordinary people whose reach considerably exceeded their grasp: the most successful, The Eyes of Tammy Faye, about the rise and spectacular fall of the empire of television preachers Jim and Tammy Faye Baker, probably got



Wilson Cruz and Macaulay Culkin in Bailey & Barbato's Party Monster

more laughs from a Castro Theatre crowd than any film since the great screwball comedies of Howard Hawks.

Party Monster is not a comedy, Party Monster is not a comedy, it's the portrait of an unusual but, for a time, highly successful marriage. The film is based on St. James' Disco Bloodbath, and a running gag has the usually high St. James suffering a writer's block that is cured only when he gets to the support of the property of the support of the power had been supported by the support of the s dramatize the events leading up to Alig's murder of their drug dealer, Angel (Wilson Cruz).

#### **Doing donuts**

Culkin and Green are the movie, giving us the best portrait of a couple bound for hell since Kenneth Halliwell and Joe Orton in Prick Up Your Ears. Their first public meeting, fittingly at that ultimate hustler hangout, a 24-hour donut shop, shows St. James to be the idea guy, while Alig has the wit of a practical joker and the guts of a gambler able to take the nuttiest gag out for a test spin.

The film sparkles when Alig's wackiest stunts work: dumpster sex with his DJ boyfriend Keoki (That '70s Show's Wilmer Valderrama); a Jerry Springer-like TV appearance in which Alig cruelly taunts St. James and Angel by revealing their less-than-fabulous actual identities on the air; and,

actual identities on the air; and, throughout, a supporting cast of surviving club-kids whose disco

Star Wars-like costumes are better

In his last film, Culkin was *The Good Son*, an angelic-looking bad seed of a kid who would rather go seed of a kid who would rather go over a cliff than surrender to parental control. In his absence, the family name has been well-represented in some first-class movies by younger brothers Kieran (Igby Goes Down) and Rory (You Can Count on Me). With Party Marker Marcalay reclaims Party Monster, Macaulay reclaims the Culkin crown, demonstrating the Culkin crown, demonstrating not only the acting chops to allow us to let go of all those plucky-little-boy images from his block-buster comedies, but also a new, very grown-up side of a boyishlooking man who can vanquish the abusive father, control just how much of himself he'll allow his force and until his force his fans, and, unlike his close friend Michael Jackson, know the difference between playing Peter Pan on the screen and getting on with a real life.

with a real life.

There is a poignant irony about a child prodigy playing a killer kid. Bailey and Barbato know that this is their trump card and are careful not to upstage this crucial conceit, but as I write this, Macaulay is doing another very different movie, and Michael Alig's only stunt is a life sentence which he will probably still be serving long after little boy Culkin serving long after little boy Culkin has become the man of some very adult dreams. (Castro, 6/28) ▼



# Strange fruits

# Bailey and Barbato to receive 2003 Frameline Award

by Robert Julian

enton Bailey and Randy Bar bato are queer, in every sense of the word. Who else but wo gay boys could jump-start their filmmaking careers with a RuPaul video (1991's "Supermod-el")? "Sashay, Shante" indeed. After forming World of Wonder Proforming World of Wonder Productions in 1991, they began to integrate their gay sensibility into documentaries that also had mainstream appeal. And on Saturday, June 28, Bailey and Barbato receive the 2003 Frameline Award at a debut screening of their first narrative feature, Party Monster (8:30 p.m., Castro Theatre).

The inspiration for their most

The inspiration for their most recent collaboration follows natu-rally from their harrowing 1998 rany from their narrowing 1998 documentary of the same title. The "party monster" in question is Michael Alig, a druggie Manhattan clubkid of the '80s who murdered one of his peers, Angel Melendez. Alig, weirdly unrepentant and strangely disconnected from his own actions, is now in vision for the provider. prison for the murder. In the new



The students in School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas

film, he is portrayed by Macaulay Culkin, with supporting roles as sayed by Seth Green and Chloe Se vigny.

This is just the latest twist in a

fairly twisted résumé. Among their many films, Bailey and Bar-bato are responsible for the HBO bato are responsible for the HBO documentary The Real Ellen Story, as well as 101 Rent Boys and The Eyes of Tammy Faye. Only in the latter film does a clear affection for their subject, Tammy Faye Baker, cause their collective critical eye to veer toward a fanzine mentality.

Two additional Bailman A. B.

Two additional Bailey and Barbato films, both documentaries, also screen at the festival. School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas plays the Castro at 3:45

p.m. on June 27. This disturbing look at an "alternative" high school in Dallas, Texas is directed by Jeremy Simmons with Bailey and Barbato producing.
With only a dozen students, Walt Whitman Community School is one of three schools in the country specifically designated for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. But remember, this is Texas. Walt Whitman has no accreditation; students has no accreditation; students must take a GED exam because the school cannot issue high school diplomas. The principle is a butch lesbian whose personal style recalls Mercedes McCambridge in *Johnny Guitar*, and the student body is a sad collection of heterosexual society's rejects. La-beled fags, dykes and trannies by their peers, they come from all over the country to Walt Whit-man, only to find that the change of venue does not make their problems go away. Some are even rejected by the host families who agreed to take them in for the du-ration of their high school attendance. But when the filmmakers visit some kids who return to their families, the difficulty of their plight is amplified.

The students in School's Out

are not the privileged offspring of enlightened parents who sought out a school where diversity is tolerated. These kids are poor, and they come from families who live on the margins of society. School's Out is complex, maddening, and thought-provoking.



Anna Nicole Smith in Dark Roots

Dark Roots: The Unauthorized Anna Nicole Smith Story (Castro, 6/27) is a whore of a different color. William H. Macy narrates this documentary directed by Bai-ley, Barbato, and Gabriel Rotello. The timing on this one may be a bit off, since most viewers seem to be hoping Smith will call off her ongoing assault on America. Seriously overexposed via E! Entertainment's Anna Nicole Smith Show, this former Playboy model and Guess jeans icon seems to have fallen into a permanent men-tal haze and chronic obesity. Just wait until you meet her family.

Dark Roots takes you to Mexia, Texas, the former hometown of a skinny high school drop-out named Vicky Lynn Hogan. Vicky married Billy Smith at 17, had a son she named Daniel, divorced,

next page



Racking up his 45th emotional victim: Chad Lindsey as Jeremy in ...Lose

# **Emotional victims**

## 'Totally Sexy Loser': sorry

by Brandon Judell

t New York City's New Festi-val, director/writer Jason Schafer, best known for his delightful screenplay for Trick and his Queer As Folk teleplays, warned at the screening of his new feature: "This is not a date movie. So if you're on a date, I'm sorry Truer words have seldom been spoken. Of course, if you were not on a date, this film's value is still debatable.

Loser's antihero is Jeremy (Chad Lindsey), a comely man in the midst of his 45th break-up. His

ates the motional victim is airline steward Chip (Mark DeWhitt).

His attraction to Chip and his numerous exes: "I think I find mental illness hot."

That line sounds funnier on the page then coming from Jere-my's mouth, because he's such a nonstop kvetcher. The guy's a self-indulgent cad, which can be fun. Really, Just watch Michael Caine

Here, though, you have no empathy for the man. He's one-note. He bores his co-workers, and he'll irritate you. This is possibly be-cause Lindsey, as an actor, doesn't reveal any hidden depths, a talent that will do him well on a secondtier TV situation comedy.
In-between his highly detailed

In-between his highly detailed moments of breaking-up angst, Jeremy flashes back on his whole relationship with Chip. To be honest, you'd probably break up with him, too, unless you have a yen for the clingy, tearful type.

An early warning to Jeremy that all would not work out was when during an early date he had

when, during an early date, he had to advise Chip: "You don't have to

justify sucking my dick."

Jeremy, to be fair, is not a complete asshole. When confronted by an ex who wants quick sex in a bathroom at a party, the following confrontation takes place: Jeremy: "I've never cheated." Ex: "That's because your rela-

tionships have never lasted that

Sadly, this feebly directed effort, which would have made a clever short, lasts 75 minutes. Shot on video, the film has a bland visual look that doesn't add to the festivities

festivities.

Trivia: Craig Robert Young,
who portrays a delicious, horny
coffeemaker in a third-rate Starbucks rip-off joint, is an import
from Britain's MTV. Channel. Like
a strong dose of caffeine, he'll give
you a rise. (Castro, 6/26) ▼





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### **Armistead Maupin**

ible. But the cause, the thing the parade represents, has the most value in my life, so I'm thrilled to be recognized in this way."

He's invited actress Laura Linney, star of the *Tales of the City* miniseries, to ride with him. After the parade, Maupin plans to "raise a little hell from the podi-um," he said. "I'll probably do what I always do, which is to re-mind people that gay liberation is something that happens inside of you, not outside of you. If you spend any time at all accommo-

dating the feelings of bigots, you end up in a state of perpetual slavery. That's all Harvey Milk ever talked about."

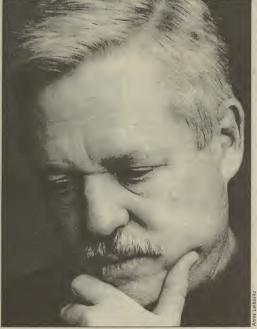
ever talked about."

By the time Maupin, a North
Carolina native, arrived in San
Francisco in the early '70s, he was
a Vietnam veteran and a rapidly
lapsing conservative. Before long, this young reporter had convinced the editors of the San Francisco Chronicle to let him write about the adventures of the diverse residents at 28 Barbary Lane. *Tales of the City* ran for 11 years as a daily column before be-

oming the source of five books and three miniseries. "When I named it Barbary Lane," he said, "the joke was the disparity between the two words: disparity between the two words. 'Barbary,' representing the wild, brawling, drunken orgies of the sailors down on the waterfront; and 'Lane,' being the traditional English word that suggests homey domesticity. That combination is part of why I love this town so much."



In fact, his next writing project will be about just that, his ject will be about just that, his love affair with San Francisco. "Bloomsbury Press has a series called *The Writer and the City.* Edmund White did Paris, and they've asked me to do one on San Francisco. I'm thinking of calling it *Wicked Little Town* as an homage to a song in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. There's a great line in it: 'If you've got no other choice, you know you can follow choice, you know you can follow my voice through the dark turns and noise of this wicked little town.' I get goosebumps even reciting it, because it invokes something for me about San



'I look around and think, this is it. You're here. And that's good news.'

and more attractive. I said, 'I can't believe you're actually saying this to me.' But he has to be of a certain age, because that's the point of the story."
For Maupin, who's a couple of

ticks from 60, age has taken on a new patina. "I broke up with Terry when I was 51," he said, "so that was when a lot of the reex-amination began: I look around and think, this is it. You're here.

June 26, signing books and

Maupin lives in Parnassus Heights, and is a familiar presence in the Castro neighborhood.
"I love to see small-town America remade in an image I can find acceptable," he said. "That's how acceptable, he said. I hat's now the I feel every time I go down to the Castro Theatre and spill out onto the main street of Gay USA."

As for romance, Maupin said,

# Miss Millie's

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'I used to be very uptight about going to bars because I felt that people were staring at me. And then I realized not many 58-year-olds get people staring at them, so I decided to just get over myself and be friendly.'

Maupin has also been co-writing with Terry Anderson a screenplay based on The Night Listener. Though officially a novel, the story is a highly autobiographical account of his breakup with Anderson (who remains his business partner) and how they dealt with a possible hoax that turned Maupin into a telephone confidante to a boy

hoax that turned Maupin into a telephone confidante to a boy dying, maybe, of AIDS.

The film is expected to go into production in the fall with Patrick Stettner (The Business of Strangers) as director. No one has been cast yet to play the character Maupin based on himself, though some of the names that have been floated include Chris Cooper, Jeff Bridges, and Kevin Kline.

Bridges, and Kevin Kline.

"It's got to be someone clearly
in his 50s," Maupin said. "At one
point my agent said that we
would have a better chance of
selling it if it's somebody younger

And that's very good news, because you become peaceful about things, and you start saying no to everything that offends you or bores you. I was so good at pleasing other people that I exhausted myself"

myself."

Maupin did say yes to Under One Roof, the nonprofit gift store in the Castro benefiting AIDS in the Castro benefiting AIDS service organizations, when they asked about creating a merchandise line based on Tales of the City. Now on sale only at UOR are T-shirts, baseball caps, and journals with a new Tales of the City logo by Michael Schwab, designer of the popular Golden Gate National Park posters.

"We joked about it for years, making wisecracks about ceraminations."

"We joked about it for years, making wisecracks about ceramic representations of Barbary Lane," Maupin said, "but it finally seemed appropriate on the 25th anniversary." Maupin will be at Under One Roof 4-6 p.m. on

"I'm being a gay blade, a bachelor again, and having a rather good time meeting people. I used to be very uptight about going to bars because I felt that people were staring at me. And then I realized not many 58-year-olds get people staring at them, so I decided to just get over myself and cided to just get over myself and be friendly."

who Those Maupin, whether on the streets, in a bar, or at his house, are easi-

in a bar, or at his house, are easily drawn to his expansive personality. He may seem to possess a contagious *joie de vivre*, but he himself isn't so sure about that. "I think that the thing you are calling *joie de vivre* is my only effective survival technique," Maupin said. "I have a very pessimistic view of the world, and the only way I've managed to get around that is to embrace my friends as family, and to try to live in a state of perpetual wonder." \textstyle \textstyle

## **Bailey & Barbato**

previous page

moved back to Houston, changed her name to Anna Nicole, and got breast implants to increase her ap-peal at the local titty bar. As her Apeal at the local utily bar. As her Acup breasts ballooned to double D's, with not one, but two implants per breast, Smith's success as a topless dancer soared. Enter her 89-year-old boyfriend and subsequent husband, Texas oil bil-lionaire J. Howard Marshall.

The widow Marshall's battle for her inheritance is legendary. But in *Dark Roots*, we meet her Powledge, as well as Smith's for-mer boss at the titty bar, who re-marks that Smith has an "insa-tiable" sexual drive, and "female partners were as important to her as male." Then, of course, there are the dentally challenged aunts, un-cles, and cousins in rural Texas that she abandons on her climb to

fame and fortune.

Dark Roots' narration drips

with sarcasm - as if any audience needs a wink and a nudge to get the irony of Anna Nicole. Wild West title-cards and a banjo Wild West title-cards and a banjo soundtrack further cartoon that which is already ridiculous, but by the end of the film the tragic banality of Smith's existence hits home. Her family may redefine "trailer trash," but they've got her number. Watching an episode of Anna Nicole's series for the first time, her cousin opines, "She's higher than a kite!" Amen, sister.

### Marga Gomez

← Arts cover

duced Off-Broadway and coast to coast, Gomez divides her time be-tween New York and San Francisco, where she recently appeared at a SOMArts evening of Chicana

"I love both cities for different "I love both cities for different reasons, and I can't decide which one I'm supposed to be in," she says. "So, being a Gemini, I rent apartments in both places. The community is more nurturing in San Francisco, so in New York I've had to toughen was bit Francisco. had to toughen up a bit. Everything is so expensive that it makes you more ambitious because you

you more ambitious because you need to make rent."

Gomez got her start at Gay Comedy night at the Valencia Rose in San Francisco in the '80s. "There were lots of places to try out material back then if you were a beginner queer comic," she says. "I was in the right place at the right time."

right time."

The most memorable moment in her early career was perform-ing with Lily Tomlin, Harvey Fier-stein, Robin Williams and Minnie

stein, Robin Williams and Minnie Mouse at the Castro Theatre at a benefit showing of *The Celluloid Closet* in the early '90s.

"It was a full house, I was the semi-new kid with a killer set, and that might be when San Francisco really adopted me," she says.
"After working at local gay venues, benefits and street fairs, I felt solid enough to go national in the '90s." the '90s.'

the '90s.' Gomez has since appeared on Showtime, Comedy Central, PBS and HBO. She's performed at concert halls, colleges, clubs, festivals and rallies all over the country and on the high seas. Although a lot of her material is insuited by and on the figh seas. Although a lot of her material is inspired by her experiences as a Latina les-bian, Gomez aims her comedy at everyone regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation or hairstyle.

"Most comics plan material based on many factors regarding the audience," she says. "Are they drunk, political, young, old, re-gional, tired, French? It's not only

glonal, tired, French It's not only based on sexuality."

Her career was profiled in the docu-comedy Laughing Matters, along with lesbian comics Kate Clinton, Suzanne Westenhoeffer and Karen Williams, which recently screened at the San Francisco International LGBT Film

Perhaps her most astonishing film performance is as Jane Edmunds, military personnel and computer expert in the big-bud-



Gomez had a strange Pride episode a few years ago, held hostage in NJ.

what I do, and there's lots of pictures," she says. "I'm discovering that a website is more than fun and a cool resource. It can also be a tool for world domination.

#### Mama's place

Although Gomez is making her Grand Marshal debut this year, she has performed at many

vision.

"I was beginning to feel a tingly sensation like I was about to meet my perfect partner and discovering a woman who dressmy opposite: a woman who dress-es like Melanie Griffith in that movie Working Girl: short skirts, high heels and tight, low-cut tops. "I knew my big-haired New Jersey soulmate was out there,"

'l'd been waiting for this day, and all the honeys who would be there, because I couldn't get laid in New York. I didn't have a graduate degree. I thought in New Jersey, it would be easier. I could impress a date just by watching television.'

get Hollywood sci-fi thriller Sphere, starring Dustin Hoffman and Sharon Stone.

Gomez prepared for the role, Gomez prepared for the role, which takes place in an underwater habitat, by taking long baths and programming her VCR. The hard work paid off as evidenced in the scene where she serves muffins to the scientists. She says not a word earthy laying the plate not a word, gently laying the plate down in front of Hoffman as he

expounds on physics.

Her computer expert character
presumably dies after a jellyfish attack on Queen Latifah, but Gomez
herself has since embraced technology with her website, www.margagomez.com. "It really gives folks a taste of

Pride events, including a memorable New Jersey Pride experience that partly inspired her Off Off Broadway show *Intimate Details*, which she performed last week at New York's La Mama Café.

The show vividly recalls what Connex describes as "a very last."

Gomez describes as "a very strange Pride episode a few years ago when I was sort of held hostage by a New Jersey house-wife for a month, and then she

dumped me.
"I'd been waiting for this day, and all the honeys who would be there, because I couldn't get laid in New York. I didn't have a graduate degree. I thought in New Jersey, it would be easier. I could impress a date just by watching telesays Gomez. "But when I scoped the crowd at New Jersey Pride, I couldn't see any big hair; all the women were wearing baseball caps. None possessed the slutty secretary vibe I craved. These ladies looked more like retired

Softball players."

Gomez's post-San Francisco
Pride plans include more touring,
and she'll ring in 2004 at the annual Theatre Rhinoceros benefit. "In the spring, I open my next solo piece at the Kennedy Center in DC," she says. "It's called, Los Big Names, and it's loosely about fame and family."

But this weekend, keep an eye out for Marshal Marga. She's armed — and dangerous.







# **Bursting with gay pride**

# Catching up with LGBT recording artists on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

aybe I'm still high on the fumes from the June 2003 OutMusic Awards ceremony in New York, but I'd swear that the quality of music being made and recorded by queer artists is simply sensational, often surpassing the work of their straight contemporaries. I'm so proud to be queer, I could just scream.

What would LGBT Pride month be without dance music? Party Groove-Pride 03 (Centaur) is the latest in the dance label's longstanding series of pride-themed dance compilations mixed by leg-endary club DJ Julian Marsh. With a selection as colorful as the cover art, Marsh has programmed cover art, Marsh has programmed a continuous mix of songs of pride and joy, many of which are dance remakes of classic pop tunes. Opening with a cover of Gladys Knight & The Pips' "You're The Best Thing" by Sleazesisters featuring Cie doing their best, Marsh continues this new retro collection with The Bee Gees' "Tragedy" stepped up by Steps, T-Zone's spin on The Four Tops' "Reach Out," openly gay Happy Charles's rendition of Jackie DeShannon's "Put a Little Love in Shannon's "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," Flip & Fill featuring Jo James doing what they can to fill Whitney Houston's shoes on "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," Kelly Wilde's embrace of the popular "Loving Arms," a new ring on the oft-covered "I Think We're Alone Now" by Belle Lawrence, and Kate Project's interpretation Cyndi Lauper's timeless



Omnisexual, plus-sized, bluesbelting diva Candye Kane's cover of Willie Dixon's "Whole Lotta Love," from her new album Whole Lotta Love (Ruf), is a perfect example of the magic that occurs when a performer leaves the original genders of the song intact. Kane bends the cock-rock of Robert Plant's Led Zepplin version into a multi-orgasmic treat. The fact that she follows that with a cover of Squeeze's "When the Hangover Strikes" says something about her ample sense of humor. Other kick-ass covers include Love," from her new album Whole Other kick-ass covers include Kine's distinctive readings of the Etta James number "Something's Got a Hold on Me" and Carole King's "Wrap Around Joy."

Music journalist and composer Will Grega's Stereotonic (Pop

Front Music), subtitled A New Lounge Mix of Urban Exotica, was co-produced by Grega and his life-partner, ex-Village People Cowboy Randy Jones. "Showdown" sounds like Ennio Morricone gone gay, while the drum'n'bass tune "Dr. Galaxy From 3000 A.D." is rave-ready. "Time For Passion" is a passionate dance track. Grega exhibits his flair for the exotic.



#### Hole lotta lovin'

Chris Freeman of Pansy Division produced Never Forget (Agit-prop/Spitshine), the debut disc by Southern California-based queer quartet IAMLOVED. Lead vocalquartet IAMLOVED. Lead vocalist Jimmy Jasmine has a Bob Mould quality to his voice, and the songs rock like vintage Husker Du. "He Has a Hole" is a melodic metaphor for being "out," with the lines, "He has a hole in his pocket, tonight/everything he puts in/falls out falls out out out/but this is OK/and all his friends and family know that he's gay." "Breaking Up (Is Easy To Do)" is one of the most honest gay break-up songs I've ever heard, and the title track addresses the shame, pain and inno cence of a closeted childhood.



Gay male performer Deian McBryde's alter ego Mabel Dawn Davis makes her recording debut on *Peel Me a Grape* (EvAn on Peel Me a Grape (EvAn Media), a torchy collection of standards, including "Lush Life" and "Strange Fruit." "Girls & Ladies" is a medley that includes the first down-tempo version of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" Grits Just Wanna Have Fun" that I've ever heard, and Mabel Dawn Davis' interpretation is surprisingly effective. Davis also inhabits Vonda Shepard's "Every Now and Then," and puts a little swing and sway into McBryde's jazzy "246."



Openly gay, Tony Award-winning (Hairspray) composer Marc Shaiman composed the retro score for the Doris Day/Rock Hudson homage Down With Love, starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture Down With Love (Reprise/WMG Soundtracks) includes Shaiman's recreations of the vintage movie music of the period. The duet "Here's To Love," performed by Zellweger and McGregor, sounds as much of the time, the early '60s, as the period material performed by Sinatra and Basie, Astrud Gilberto and Xavier Cugat.



After Sophie B. Hawkins released her third album, *Timbre*, on Columbia, she was so disappointed by the way the label promoted it that she purchased it back from them and re-released it on her own label with Rykodisc. There was obviously no love lost as The Best of Sophie B. Hawkins (Columbia/Legacy) is basically a baker's dozen tracks from her two previous Columbia albums Tongues and Tails (with her debut hit "Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover") and Whaler (with the

chart-topping "As I Lay Me Down") and one remix.

#### Righteous anger

Righteous anger
Sometimes anger can be a useful thing. A pissed-off Laura Love channels that furious energy into her powerful new album Welcome to Pagan Place (Koch). Justifiably dissatisfied with the current state of the world, the musician and new foster mother tackles corporate greed and poorly performing public schools in "Trickle Down," and bad presidents and war machinery in "I Want You Gone." The Steve Miller/Beatles medley "Fly Like An Eagle/Come Together" takes on a whole new meaning in Love's version. Love's version.

Prospect Park (Badman) by

queer British folk balladeer James William Hindle is a stunning William Hindle is a stunning acoustic effort, reminiscent of Badly Drawn Boy, which renews one's belief in the power of pleasant pop. "Come Down Slowly," with the lines, "See how you can come down slowly/See how you can come back round/See how you can come down slowly/That's you can come down slowly/That's if you get to come at all," sounds like a folksy take on circuit party

Stompin' Ground (Daemon/ SBS) is a Cajun-spiced set of original numbers, "a deep-Southern pocket with a 50-watt socket," by Moanin' Michelle Malone and the Low-Down Georgia Revue. Malone moves away from the more pop-oriented tunes of her last few

one moves away from the more popo-oriented tunes of her last few studio discs and sings like she's been biting the heads off crawfish for fun on "Lafayette," which sounds like a lost Little Feat tune. On the fast-shuffling same-sex girl-reunion tune "2 Horn and 2 Wings," she sings about a "pretty little blue-eyed angel."

In terms of spice, The Nancys know it is the variety of life, and their debut disc Drag Machine (Starbelly Studios/Red Room) reflects that notion. The Nancys rock out on "Lament" and then bring in synthetic beats that recall recent Bob Mould on "Within." They plug it in for the Gary Numan meets electroclash of "Instant Burning," As an added bonus, see if you can find all of the "drag machines" in the CD booklet.

On "Pretty Face," the opening track to his second full-length album Gasping for Breath (Gutter Folk). Utah-based, poenly queer

album Gasping for Breath (Gutter Folk), Utah-based, openly queer singer/songwriter Kevin Allred's guitar-playing reminds me of Melissa Ferrick. Allred doesn't mince words, as you can hear on the very out songs such as "Eyes of Zapata" (in which he declares, "my Zapata" (in which he declares, "my body is a revolution"), the synthetic beats of "This Is Not My Home" (which sounds like an open letter to Utah), the gorgeous break-up song "500 Times," the Matthew Shepard tribute "Maybe an Angel," the gay love song "Im Your Man," and the disc's centerpiece, the poem "Any But Our Own Eyes."

Queers and klezmer (Yiddish

Queers and klezmer (Yiddish Queers and klezmer (Yiddish jazz) music are an unlikely combination, but both the Klezmatics and Isle of Klezbos are proof that the formula works. Greetings from...The Isle of Klezbos (Rhythm Media Records) by the six-member all-female klezmer group is a mix of live and studio tracks that blends traditional setracks that blends traditional seections with originals such as "Abrah" and "East Hapsburg Waltz," written by IOK members Debra Kreisberg and Eve Sicular, respectively.



# Pioneers & torch-carriers, out in music

# Outmusic's 2003 award-winning discs in review

by Jason Serinus

he third annual Outmusic Awards (OMAs), celebrating excellence in LGBT recording, songwriting, and cultural activism were distributed on June 1, tivism were distributed on June 1, 2003 at The Knitting Factory in New York City. The ceremony marked the culmination of the first annual Outmusic Conference, which brought together 80 LGBT musicians and industry members

semination of queer music.

Co-hosted by women's music legend Alix Dobkin and singer/songwriter Jamie Anderson, singer/songwriter Jamie Anderson, the OMAs were presented in 12 categories. The event also honored gay music pioneers Romanovsky & Phillips with the Outmusic Heritage Award. The 2003 Outstanding Support OMA went to music journalist Gregg Shapiro, and Special Recognition Awards honored Amazan Country. the first and cial Recognition Awards honored Amazon Country, the first and longest-running US lesbian radio program, and LGBT hip-hop artist Judge "Dutchboy" Muscat. The OMAs are a project of Outmusic, a worldwide network which supports LGBT musicians the outher supersistents.

through open mics, showcases, seminars, CD samplers, and queer music festivals. Outmusic currently has 200 members who pay a nominal \$25 annual membership fee. The organization also sponsors a website, outmusic.com, and an online yahoo list-serve/discus-

sion group. LGBT musicians also find support at Outvoice.net, which hosts a free, ongoing discussion forum for queer musicians and their admirers, and features a weekly queer music chart which is voted on by subscribers. OMA recipi-



Outstanding New Recording -Male; Outstanding Producer; and Outsong of the Year: Mark Weigle The accolades for the Vallejo, CA-based singer/songwriter's third CD, Out of the Loop, are justified. While Outsong of the Year winner "Have I Told You in the You)" is a joyous ditty that addresses the initial, giggly phase of relationship, many of Weigle's most powerful ballads are slow, most powerful ballads are slow, soft-spoken semi-confessionals. Works like the tear-inducing "Out" duet with the late gay pioneer Steven Grossman, the Western-tinged teen romance "Cody," "Us Both" about his father's suicide, and the health-affirming "Love Your Body Like It is" reveal Weigle as a mature artist with an expansive vision. (markweigle.

Com)
Outstanding New Recording –
Female: Mary Lofstrom Ginger
Comes to Stay, Seattle-based jazz
vocalist Loftstrom's second CD, is an unmitigated delight. Loftstrom sings, scats, imitates a trumpet, and trumpets her lesbianism with a smiling nonchalance that sweetly implies that loving women is the easiest and most natural thing



woman can do. Who except John Ashcroft will fail to love Lof-strom's scatting "I'll Do Dot" or Nina Simone's "Sugar in My Bowl?" Excellent support from piano and bass, plus synthesized strings. (shimmeringfish.com)



Outstanding Debut Recording

- Female: Allison Tartalia
(above) and Tarey Wolf (shared) New Yorker Allison Tartalia's ready blend of rock, jazz, pop, and folk is wedded to a striking, bright voice that sings out with edgy intensity. Her influences may include lyrical inspiration from Emily Dickinson, Dorothy of Oz, and William Shakespeare, but this is definitely leave-the-reading-chair-behind music. (allisontar-

Self-taught Los Angelean Tarey Wolf's Magnificent Obsession com-bines pop and folk influences into a softer, winning blend of her own vocals, acoustic guitar, percussion, and synthesized accompaniment. The title song is about a magnifi-cent obsession she can't get out of her mind. I love the words to "Just Be Cool": "We were fooled by the 'Me' generation, seduced by the lies on TV/But we're all on a road to deeper meaning in this life-sized tapestry." This deeply reflective album whets the appetite for



Outstanding Debut Recording

Male: **Reuben** Reuben's strong, street-smart Dusk evidences a musical savvy that the New York musical savvy that the New York-er first acquired in San Francisco, where he studied at the Commu-nity Music School with original Grateful Dead keyboardist Tom Constantin. When you see him posed in a T-shirt before aging NY tenements, then hear such cuts as "Me and Rico" (about Rico getting clean), "Stay Awake" (sniff a hit of bliss), and "Treat me like a Service Man" Juse your imagination), you Man" (use your imagination), you realize that Reuben is one smart musician who has mastered the pop/electronic idiom. (reuben-butchart.com)

Outstanding New Recording -

Duo, Group or Band; Outstanding Songwriter: **Crow** Headquartered in Kentucky, Kiya Heartwood (who composed most of the music and all of the lyrics) and Miriam Davidson bring a genuine country sensibility and beautiful acoustic accompaniment to *Wishing Chair's* 10 songs. The duo sings of women's rural lives and loves with an unadorned frankness that is outie captivating. Save ness that is quite captivating. Save for the kneejerk jingoistic simple-mindedness of Heartwood's "Sep-

mindedness of Heartwood's "Sep-tember," this is an outstanding debut. (terrakin.com) Outsong of the Year (shared by three artists): Irina Rivkin: "Ya Eyo Lublu" ("I Love Her" in Russ-ian) Solely on the basis of a CD-R demo, Irina Rivkin's music and bilingual being about coming out bilingual lyrics about coming out to her Russian mother create a powerful impression. Founder of Berkeley's Rose Street House of Music, a house-concert and grassroots musical community for women singer-songwriters, Rivkin's welcome blend of the personal and political whets the appetite for her disc's anticipated release in late 2003. (rosestreet-

ısic.com) **Justin Tranter**: "Blend In." A songwriting graduate of the Berklee College of Music who re-located to NYC, Tranter combines rock, pop and Broadway influ-ences into a frequently raucous blend. He sounds like an androg-ynous spoiled brat who overindulges a tendency to gasp, moan and pout. "Blend In," co-written with Stephanie Delk, is about not blending in. (justin-

Mark Weigle: "In the Last Five Minutes" (See above.)
Outstanding New Recording – Choir or Chorus: Vox Femina Los Angeles In a class apart, Vox Femina Los Angeles In a class apart, Vox Femina Los Angeles is a choral ensemble of approximately 35 beautifully-voiced LBH women who frequently perform music by women composers. Their studio-recorded CD includes two noteworthy commissions: Alarcon Madrigals, Book II by Roger Bourland, with words by Francisco X. Alarcón; and The Tolerance Project by Joan Szymko, with words by Amanda Harter and Christopher Behrens. To outstandingly sensi-Amanda Harter and Christopher Behrens. To outstandingly sensi-tive piano accompaniment by Lisa Edwards, VFLA renders every-thing from Holly Near's "Simply Love" to Robert Seeley's "I Come from the Good People" with gen-tleness and grace that rival profes-sional ensembles. Simply wonder-

sional ensembles. Simply wonder-ful. (voxfeminala.org).
Outstanding New Recording –
Instrumental: Will Grega,
Stereotonic New Yorker Will
Grega, a favorite of the trance music scene, describes Stereotonic as a lounge mix of Urban/Exotica which blends elements of underground hip hop, pop/rock, drum'n'bass, house, and even classical structures and flamenco. Spoken words, repeated to under-score their pseudoprofundity, are frequently layered over synthesized beats. Grega's intriguingly ti-tled selections, heard without benefit of drugs or dancing, pre-tend to more depth than they achieve. But in the right context, they're ideal for lift-off, (willgre-



of the Outmusician Yolanda New York drag queen comic, singer and TV personality Yolanda has an MFA in Performance Art and an unstoppable desire to serve the community. Yolanda created Manhattan les-bian bar Meow Mix's indispensable GLBT music showcase, has fundraised for the Vermont Radifundraised for the vermont Kaur-cal Faerie sanctuary and a Philadelphia organization that opposes Israeli occupation of Palestine, and ran both a support group for Trans people and an AIDS Prevention Program for gay men in Vermont. Yolanda's fine baritone enlivens

her Welcome to Yolanda World debut disc with her band, The Plastic Family. (yolanda.net) ▼



# Nine, the musical

# Rattle's fresh approach to Beethoven's complete nine symphonies

he burnished box that contains Sir Simon Rattle's new complete Beethoven symphony cycle (EMI) virtually screams, "Important." Once you've clawed your way inside it, you find a deluxe booklet, hardbound! Look inside that, and you'll find an essay about the fundamental connection between the music of Beethoven and the cre-ation of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, which Rattle conducts on this set. My response to the package is the same as to its contents: calm down.

This is hardly a recording project that needs external justifica-tion or special pleading. But the welcome new release, which features performances of the new Barenreiter Urtext edition of the symphonies, doesn't exactly fill a vacuum, which may explain the (literal) case EMI makes for it. Claudio Abbado, Rattle's pre-decessor as music director of the

Berlin Philharmonic, recorded the same edition, with the Berliners, in 2000, in an interpretive tri-umph that put some of the central works in the Western music canon in an entirely new light. Rattle's handsome new set elbows a place handsome new set glooms and alongside Abbado's with startlingly muscular, assertive playing. If you like your Beethoven big, Rattle's your man. While he stakes his own claim to these canonical works, he's squarely in the tradi-tion of the grand old men of the baton before him. Yet it's Abbado's Berliners who give the clearest picture of the "new," restored Beethoven symphonies, in lithe, pellucid interpretations backed up by playing of unrivaled clarity. Each in his own way, the two conductors have absorbed the "lessons" of the historically in-

"lessons" of the historically in-formed conductors of their age. Both have led period orchestras or their equivalents. Still, Abbado gives consistently stronger evidence of having fully integrated historical style into his own musicianship. But, if — for now, for Beethoven — it's roll over, Rattle, there still are countless moments in this bold new cycle when one is only too happy to roll over for him. He gets the most out of the legendary sound of the VPO while, like Abbado with the Berliners, honing their playing into something more streamlined, pointed, and purposeful. For many buyers, the choice between these sets will depend on personal sonority preferences: the oaky nose of the VPO, or the whiff of new Mercedes upholstery in the BPO's sound.

#### Spring fever

Where I'll hand it to Rattle is in the Pastoral, probably the finest performance of the Sixth Symphony I've heard. Following Beethoven's tempo and dynamic markings gives the piece a wholly



Roll over for Sir Simon Rattle.

new patina, and Rattle mines this nature-drenched score for every murmur of the firmament. The spring in its gait revels in supreme rhythmic freedom, but its overall propulsion doesn't preclude paus-es for swells of Mahlerian intensi-

Overall, Rattle seems at his best in the even-numbered symphonies. I had to listen to the Fourth twice to believe my ears. Rattle careens through it with all the stops pulled out, yet makes it sound nimble, witty, and brimming with that distinctively Beethovenian joy. The Second, too, blends constant surprise with exuberant bombast and breakall begins to feel a bit bloated, even

self-important.
The symphonies aren't packaged in order, and I didn't listen to them in either Beethoven's or EMI's sequence. The Sixth, which I investigated early, led naturally to the Seventh, which has the requisite zin and lift but questionable. uisite zip and lift, but questionable tempo and dynamic relationships. Just when I feel like I'm finally with it, Rattle's interpretation morphs again, and his audible groans in the final movement un-derscore without clarifying the maelstrom of sound he unleashes

in it.
The Third, a piece that simply has to make a statement, makes a major one. It follows the Sixth in all-around achievement. His saber-rattling Fifth opens with an almost frightening tattoo of the famous open figure. It's a take-no-prisoners reading start to end, but it also provides the best example of his making the most of of his making the most of Beethoven's tempo markings in tandem with skillful exploitation

of rubato. However keen a musical However keen a musical thinker (and he's among the best musical minds around), Rattle is increasingly revealing himself as a sculptor of musical sound, sometimes at the expense of clarity. The urge to recast the VPO's legendary sonority must be irresistible, but, here, exhibitionism occasionally overwhelms musical argument.

overwhelms musical argument.
Where the enterprise finally collapses under its own weight is, regrettably, its destination, the choral movement of the Ninth. Rattle's is a Ninth to reckon with, but his vocal forces — Barbara Bonney, Birgit Remmert, Kurt Streit, and Thomas Hampson, plus his "old" City of Birmingham plus his "old" City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus — are wan competition for the VPO at full cry, or for Abbado's lineup of Karita Mattila, Violeta Urmana, Thomas Moser, and Thomas Quasthoff. There's plenty to savor here, but, for now, the best new Nine remain Abbado's. ▼

# Early birds get the worms

## Bay Area early music specialists on disc

by Jason Serinus

he Bay Area hosts one of the United States' largest com-munity of early music per-formers and lovers. Such major Bay Area ensembles as Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Magnificat, and American Bach Soloists are filled with superb instrumen-talists and vocalists who perform second duty in other music orga-nizations ranging in size from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra to

San Francisco Opera Orchestra to Musica Pacifica.
Among the most prolific of these instrumentalists is Shira Kammen. A UC Berkeley graduate who plays vielle, harp, and fiddle and also sings, she has lent her talents to over 40 recordings and warnards werforms with a measurement. currently performs with a me-dieval ensemble, Fortune's Wheel; a new music group, Ephemeros; an eclectic ethnic band, Panacea; and Trouz Bras, a band devoted to the dance music of Celtic Brittany



As a member of Fortune's Wheel, Kammen features prominently on Pastourelle: The Art of nently on Pastourelle: The Art of Machaut and the Trouvères (Dori-an). Recorded with natural reso-nance at Mt. Holyoke College's Abbey Chapel, Pastourelle offers a sampling of gifts from France's greatest medieval composers and lyricists. Fortune's Wheel's mem-bers consider the greatest mebers consider the greatest medieval French composer Guil-laume de Machaut (c.1300-77), who wrote, "Music is that science which makes us laugh and dance

Of the disc's 20 tracks, eight are by Machaut, three by Adam de la Halle (1245-88), and one ("Chan-son legière") by Conon de Bethune (1160-1219). The rest are by the ubiquitous Anon. Some of these works are written in dance forms such as the caroles, with texts that evoke the joys of danc-ing outdoors. Others are pas-tourelles, which tell the tales of courtly love between maid and knight. Poetry and lyrics, which often speak of suffering and unrequited love, are quite refined. The music has the customary hollow sound that we often associate with medieval writing. Think the har-monies of Gregorian chant transposed to a secular context, with lighter textures and love of flesh replacing love of God. Because Machaut composed monophonic melodies at a time

when polyphony (writing for multiple voices singing different melodic lines simultaneously) was becoming the order of the day, he has been called "the last of the trouvères." He wrote in the three great trouvère rhyme-schemes: the ballade, rondeau, and virelai the disc contains examples of

Since so much of the instrumental repertoire from this peri-od was passed down by oral tradito improvisation, Fortune's Wheel's musicians are crucial to the performances' success. Happing the base in a place to the performances to the per ly, there is an elegance to the play-ing that does full justice to the subject matter. Whether this disc is played in the background or ap-preciated in a state of deep con-

page 91 ▶

# **Got Pride?**



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# What would KJ spin?

# Healing sounds from the Tantra Stage during SF Pride

by Mark Mardon

nly a true schizophrenic could divide into enough personalities to deeply ap-preciate every single one of the 10 dance stages at the Pride Celebradance stages at the Pride Celebration. My guess is all of the stages
— Latin, Faerie, Nectar, Shadowplay, Fag Fridays, Soul of Pride,
Sundance Saloon, Asian & Pacific
Islander, SwingOUT, and Tantra
— will be hopping. I've seen the
DJ line-ups, and truly top Bay
Area talents are represented in a
wide range of genres.

Area talents are represented in a wide range of genres.

It just so happens I practice the age-old Chinese/Taoist healing art Chi Kung (qigong) with one of San Francisco's finest DJs, Keshav Jiwnani (KJ), who always turns me on to the music he's listening to and playing. Since KJ will be headlining on the Tantra Stage on Sunday (5-6:30 p.m.), as well as spinning at Pink Saturday in the Castro (Midnight-1:30 a.m.) and at the Tricone Dance Party on Friday night at Al Fanous (16th & day night at Al Fanous (16th & Guerrero, 9 p.m.), I figure there's no better time than now to share

his music with you.

Thanks to a recent media blitz, most everyone in San Francisco knows of KJ's quest to obtain asy-lum in the United States, lest he be forced back to certain persecution in his native Pakistan for being gay, and for being Hindu in a Moslem country. He has a July 3 hearing to get a court date for his case to be heard. Meanwhile, he's been playing out prolifically, enjoying his celebrity, making many new friends, and creating positive

vibes everywhere he goes.

KJ's main genre, as best experienced at Burning Man and other outdoor parties, is loosely called trance, but it's unlike anything by that name you'll find in most mainstream clubs. Where trance often gets mixed in with house, hip-/trip-hop, techno, jungle and other influences, what KJ spins is more pure, smooth and elegant than anything I've heard in clubs, and more difficult to identify as to origin. Not that there's anything wrong with cross-pollination; at the Trikone Party, KJ will be mixing Bollywood, bhangra, desi pop and other music strains into his

trance.

Nor is KJ prone to just rapidfire beats, a common feature of 
many trance parties in the Goa region of India, where the genre 
originated, though KJ is a close 
friend of world-renowned DJ Goa 
Gil. Much of what KJ spins is a 
whiteness blend a downtermo. dub/trance blend, a downtempo mixing of beats, noises, instrumentations, and samples of dis-embodied voices creating dark, mysterious soundscapes. You'll hear lots of pieces of what in a river would be driftwood, stuff floating by. To say the whole of it is spiritual is an understatement; KJ's brand of trance seems a direct Carry-over from Middle and Far Eastern ecstatic rituals, where dancers get deep into a tribal groove, as the Sufi Dervishes did.

#### **Future sounds**

A good place to dive into KJ's music is with the Dub Trees album Nature never did betray the heart that loved her (Dragonfly Records/Liquid Sound Design). You'll find it on listed on the trance-music website www.psyshop.com, where Dub Trees is described as "the first new material from seminal producer



and musician Youth, who has garand musician Youth, who has garnered a reputation as one of the most eelectic and brilliant producers to emerge in recent years." Listening to this album is an experience in going into an eerily ancient world mixed up tantalizingly with future sound bits, blips, beats and alien bursts of noise mixed in with tribal rhythms. Familiar instruments such as tablas, guitars and flutes get mixed in guitars and flutes get mixed in with groans and creaks that could have been created in a smelting factory; but somehow the noises, rather than jarring the senses, be-come part of a sound pattern that turns into a stream leading into a giant river of experimentation. You get fog horns and harmonicas and what sound like rockets firing, merging into an ominous drone and a reverberating voice. One lis-ten, and you're off on a journey through infinite space and time.



The outfit/album Stress Assassin, described on psyshop.com as "a chilled electronic dub project from the 27-year-old Henrik Jonsson," launches off with a reggae beat from outer space, with sam-ples of what sound like the creaking of some great yawning metallic door in a spaceship. The rhythm becomes infectious, the echoes gentle out into a smooth ride, and you're carried to the far-thest reaches of the universe. As

thest reaches of the universe. As you stay with the flow, you learn to let flying alien sounds glance off you as you glide by.

Mana Medicine, an. ambient, chill-out album on the Dragonfly Records/Liquid Sound Design label, and a very beautiful piece of work, is available at www.cosmonthilis.com where it is demophilia.com, where it is described as "the fourth in Liquid Sound Designer's ever-evolving series of downtempo albums."

Mana is Hindi for mind, clearly describing the minds clearly describing the mindset of this recording, which features artists Jairamji, Zen Lemonade, Angel Tears, Ott, Tripswitch, Grey Beard, Noodreem, Drift and Lisa. The work starts off with a deep didgeridoo, a bubbling spring, and a heavy rising and lowering of

Liquid Dub Vol. 7 from Liquid Sound Design (LSD) is a great compilation of dub/trance hits, and a perfect way to experience the ethos of the label, whose man-ifesto calls for transforming sound as a medium, undermining the conditions of meaning, fetishizing snapshots of apparent reality, creating structures that allow free expression and social function; and making a better world. As you would expect, the album is a total



Dakini Records (www.dakinirecords.com) comes the ethno-ambient, dub, Asian Underground album Yakshini, from the artist named Makyo, from the artist named Makyo, who reportedly was recording Indian-influenced dub and ambient "years before anyone had heard of Talvin Singh." It starts off at a fast clip with fast tablas mixed with electro beats and synth sounds, a voice repeating "Shanti," and an affecting chanting as the beat goes rapidly on. Throughout the album, refrains of India can be heard sifted through a synth-master's third-through a synth-master's thirdof India can be heard sifted through a synth-master's third-eye-open sensibility. Yakshin is another Hindi word, in this case for "a beautiful but slightly dangerous female spirit who comes to you in dreams."

Makyo's first album, featuring a collaboration with Bill Laswell, was released on Silent in 1996. Yakshini, his fourth album, features the vocals of Natasha Atlas

and frequent Makyo collaborator Keiku. His latest release is an EP on Uplink Records, a dub remix of the soundtrack to the Chinese film Suzhou River.

Also out on the Dakini label is the artist known as Toires, French by nationality, married to a Moroccan, who spends much of his time traveling throughout the Mahgreb desert. His albums are "a kind of diary, containing the sounds & impressions of his journeys." Arabic influences abound. His album *Oued-Sanati* is a summation of his work so far, featurmation of ins work so far, learning tracks recorded between 1997-2001. As with so much of the dub/ambient/trance genre, it blends natural sounds with syn-thetic noise, with exotic instruments popping in and out, tanta-lizing tidbits of remote places, strange ideas, and human habita-tions out of time or place.

#### **Plant trips**

From the 3Division label comes Entheogenic's self-titled album, by the Austro-English duo living in France, offering a rich mixture of ambient atmospheres. mixture of ambient atmospheres. This one is super-trippy, reflecting the name, referring to plant sacraments or shamanic inebriants used in evoking religious ecstasy or vision. The album kicks off with a barrage of noise samples layered into driving beats, pausing for tables and admirators interest. for tablas and a downtempo inter-lude before building back up to a driving force. The songs are clas-



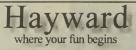
sic Burning Man fare, the kind of sound that sweeps across the playa, hypnotically drawing revelers with its gorgeous tapestry of dubbed sounds building to ecstatic climax



Finally, Ease Division, a compilation album on the Spiral Trax label (www.spiraltrax.com), offers downbeats from the Scandinavian downbeats from the Scandinavian shores, compiled by Michael Andresen. You get phat grooves from Stress Assassin, 12 Moons, Dab Screen, Human Blue and DJ Floyd, S-Range, Vibrasphere, and Healer. The tracks have been chosen for their rich, uplifting vibes and pulsing thythms.

sen for their rich, apinting vibes and pulsing rhythms.

For more information direct from the source, contact DJ Keshav Jiwnani via email at KJ@hypnopedia.com. ▼





# 3 is a winning number!



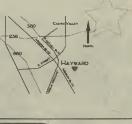
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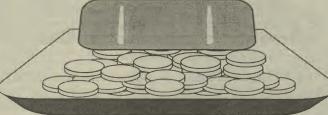
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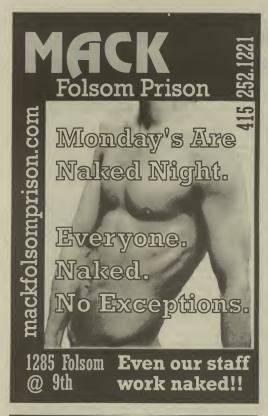


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# Alive and well in the UK

Chatting with Pete Burns of Dead Or Alive

by Gregg Shapiro

ew recordings of classic tunes such as "you Spin Me Round" and "Brand New Lover" are just a couple of reasons that the Dead Or Alive hits compilation Evolution (Legacy) supplants the earlier Rip It Up as the definitive hits collection by the definitive '80s high-glam hi-NRG dance group. Highly visible and memorable frontman Pete Burns, who told me that the most loyal support he has had throughout his career "has come out of America and Japan," and who, as a UK-based artist is "not really welcome on the radio" in his homeland, appreciates the way that Americans preciates the way that Americans "understand performers."

"understand performers."
"Americans pop out of the womb ready to do an interview," says Burns. "Showbiz is your royalty. We have the Royal Family."
Here is what royally interesting performer Pete Burns had to say when Lescapthy interviewed him. when I recently interviewed him

Gregg Shapiro: Is it hard to believe that the first Dead Or Alive album was released almost 20

Pete Burns: Not really. I don't really mark time in that way. It doesn't seem that long ago. I guess people wonder where we've been and what we've been doing, but I'm sure the hardcore fans are more than aware that I've consis-tently worked and that we've done our own albums and released them in various countries of the world. This greatest hits offer just arrived on our doorstep, and we took that. Now we're the focus of international attention. It's really

According to the liner notes which you wrote for *Evolution*, two of your musical influences were

you wrote for Evolution, two of your musical influences were Sylvester and Divine.

Absolutely, definitely. There was a Divine record called, "Native Love (Step By Step)," and to me it was the closest thing to punk. I didn't actually have much time for punk music. I thought it was the sound of misdirected anger. Youth has a natural thing to be angry, but they don't know what they're angry about, and it just seemed to me like a big, old, messy noise. Then, several years later, I heard that Divine single, and I thought that it was what punk should have been. Everybody wanted to dance, and dancing makes people happy. It had a really raw punk edge to it. It was a magical record, and it's actually the sound that I wanted. We were in negotiations to work with a guy called Bobby O, who did "Native Love" with Divine, Bobby Orlando. But it never came off.

Then Divine came to England to do a record with Stock Aitken

Orlando. But it never came off.

Then Divine came to England to do a record with Stock Aitken Waterman [SAW], which I didn't think was as good as Bobby Orlando's, but it did make me aware that there were some producers out there working on projects like this. We approached them, and the rest is history really.

As a performer, you joined Sylvester and Divine in incorpo-rating androgyny and an ambigu-ous gender image into your music. That was not their influence, that was me anyway. My actual in-spiration for that he is polar to do

was David Bowie in the '70s. I know that Bowie kind of took a backseat and all these slightly more edgy, more theatrical things



I seem to have become an icon to people with a different sensibility.

popped up. I was actually friends with both Sylvester and Divine. I had met them both quite a few times and got to hang out with them when they were in England. I found that behind the image they were very down to earth, or-dinary people, and I think that I am, too. Much to people's disap-

For a lot of gay men who were going to clubs in the '80s, you were something of an icon. How do you see your relationship to the

gay community?

I'm not really sure about the political connotations of words in the US, but I don't particularly sit comfortably with the word "gay" because it sounds like a defensive term. There are just completely different individual people out there, regardless of their sexuality. I seemed to have become an icon, not just to the men who sleep with men and the women sleeping with

men and the women sleeping with women, just to people with a different sensibility.

My main support and loyalty did come out of the gay community. They kept me going all this time. I'll never really understand why, but I do feel very lucky for it. I do think that everything that was good, ever, be it fashion, music or art, came out of gay people. There's not a beautiful woman in the fashion industry who has not been made that way by gay men.

The combination of the music of Dead Or Alive and the production team of SAW was creatively com-bustible. How do you feel about your onetime working relationship when you look back on it?

Because we wrote our own ma-terial, you see, that was problematic for them. Once we had the Number 1 hit with "You Spin Me Round," which we wrote, it would be easier for them to write things themselves in that vein, bring peo-

ple in to do a vocal, and send them home. It was less stressful. In the case of Kylie [Minogue]'s early days, they only popped into the studio for 10 minutes and got the finished record delivered to them. Because we actually wrote songs, they were only midwives to the

they were only midwives to the birthing process.

There are cellos on "Brand New Lover," and they'd say, "You can't have cellos on a dance record," and then we'd have a heated debate about why you can't have cellos on a dance record, and they would eventually knuckle under, or I would have left. We used flamenco guitars on "Something in My House," and we had this debate. They couldn't understand how you could put flamentand how you could how you could how you you have you h this debate. They couldn't understand how you could put flamenco guitars on a disco record, and we said, "Well, you can. You can make it work." We forged our own

identity.

We wanted to go off and produce our own records. There was no nasty split. I think we'd reached as far as we possibly could. I'm often wheeled out on British TV to talk about Pete Waterman, because he's a musical legend and he talks about me. He's fine he's an Juld friend. fine, he's an old friend.

If you were invited to perform "You Spin Me Round" on the morning-TV program The Today Show, would you do it?
I'd love to! I've done some American TV. I did the RuPaul show and various things for VH1 and MTV. You function better with TV you're more professional. with TV, you're more professional.
We're kind of sloppy. Americans
think that England is so glamorous, but I find England to be a pretty gray place, really. We're very cynical by nature. When I spend a cynical by hatther. Wheli Tspelld a lot of time in England, I catch that, like it's the flu, and I become very cynical. It's not a good illness to catch. Americans are full of enthusiasm, and I just love the place.

# Weapons of ass destruction

Raging Stallion stable is ready to stud

by John F. Karr

Poster Boy for Gay Pride Day is Shane Rollins. He's happy. He's horny. He's hung. And he's a truly radiant baby, cel-ebrating a playful and confident, ebrating a playful and confident, strong yet unexaggerated bottom/top/every-which-way sexuality we can all take pride in. When I grow up, I wanna be just like him. And I sure wanna screw around with the playmates he's got in a series of Raging Stallion movies — although, like most of us having our first orgasm, Shane made his film debut as a soloist.

What's this? A movie of jack-off solos from the company that was

the company that was founded on the fist? It's true that

Karrnal Knowledge

company and film di-

rector Chris Ward's sobriquet is Fist Master, and that he's made more fisting movies than anyone else, ever — 20 for Hot House, and 10 for Falcon. But he's made only a half-dozen for his own company. So don't skip the excel-lence of Raging Stallion because you're not into fisting. They've got you covered, with new releases like the beat-the-meat-of-my-heart solos of All Stars #1, the linked se-

solos of All Stars #1, the linked series of sensational make-outs in Gay Dreams, and, of course, Ass Masters (Fistpack #2), the best, or perhaps I should say, most sophisticated fisting movie ever made.

I'm sorry that Ass Masters will appeal only to a specialty audience, because it's the way porn should be made. Ward realizes that porn can be a form of meditation, and his film feels composed, rather than caught on the fly in the usual snippets. Ward highlights the intense communication between partners, keeping faces in a tight frame along with the hot zones: serves up the sex and the soul. and the soul.

Ass Masters opens with a serenely intense adagio for star Carlos Morales and The Mystery Fister, whose face is unseen but who's quite a Master. There's a

scherzo for the trio of Tony Serra-no, Rik Jammer and Mike Vista, and then the extended heart of the movie, with the redoubtable Carlos Morales at his voluptuous, mesmerized and most accommomesmerized and most accommodating best in a dildo-riding, deep-fisting duet with Tom Vacarro. There's more, but what has just past is historic. And the music? I've been listening to the DVD with the picture off, just to keep me in the zone — thank you, J.D. Slater. And Ward's vision is beautifully fulled by without property of the p

Jadet. And wards vision is beau-tifully fulfilled by videographer David Hempling.

Ah, I sighed. Too bad they don't make non-fetish movies like this one.

And, O! I an-swered. But they do. Both All Stars #1 and Gay Dreams are as strik-

ingly well crafted as Ass Masters, while

all Raging Stallion features render an raging stainton readures renear their action with the amazing real-ity provided by the high resolution of the company's unique SexaS-cope process. Mr. Rollins makes his debut in All Stars #1, which was conceived of by the Nob Hill Cinema, as advertisement for their performers. But their real achievement was to ask Ward to film it. His expert team bathes the performers in warm, golden light and captures their actions in long, caressing takes as they play right to the camera. Shane opens the show, his face alone mirroring an excess of ecstasy before we even get to the real goods. Broad shoulders cap the column of flat torso that slides to a nipped waist. Below, a vast savanna of truin bears the merset memory. inpped waist. Below, a vast savanna of groin bears the merest memory of pubic hair before a bulging cock rises bountifully. Shane proffers his ass, which is neither wrinkled rosebud nor puckered pinhole, but a wide-open three-lane expressway to happiness. Feast your eyes on all this, and become an immediate

Shane is followed by Ice, an even leaner and more completely shaven beauty who offers a sultry strip and a no-hands orgasm, cum oozing from a long-shafted boner. Tommy Rollins, looking like a



Morales at his most accommodating

Marine recruit, wields a dildo not as a Weapon of Ass Destruction, but as a Plowshare for Pleasure. but as a Plowshare for Pleasure. After furrowing his ass, he rides it like a pogo stick, and then abruptly up-ends himself to pop a plump load precisely into his mouth. For the movie's finale, Michael Brandon bangs his monster meat against the glass door of the shower stall.

#### Plush room

Shane Rollins gets the full star sane Rollins gets the full star treatment he deserves in two delirious scenes of a treasure of porn, Gay Dreams. The movie's first dream is of the incredibly handsome (and only uncut mempartner Triton Rivers. Their strong debuts are a swell teaser be-fore the star's first turn. Here, up-coming star Fyre Fli makes up for the strenuous spelling of his name by displaying an overwhelmingly ardent sexuality, as he tosses Shane around enthrallingly in a most sumptuous bedroom setting. Oversized velvet pillows, a vast leopard throw, a colorful ta-pestry covering an entire wall, and a silken rainbow tenting the ceil-ing create a sensual bower so different from the sterile modernity typical of other films. This plush room prompts an effusive re-sponse from the men, who make love both fierce and tender.

love both fierce and tender.

Like the parting of the Red Sea, Shane's ass opens as if Fyre Fli were holding forth the rod of Moses. He's not, of course, but you'd part your private parts, too, for the rod he's got: it's the staff of a god. Fyre Fli rims with a suction that could drain the Red Sea, and he follows up with voracious kissing and furious fucking. Then, surprise! Fyre Fli is bouncing upon Shane's dick, as excited and exciting a bottom as he was a top. All this is set to a phantasmagorical wash of drums and electric cal wash of drums and electric guitar that reaches some heavy-metal moments (Slater, once

There's a swell scene for amorous Michael Vincenzo and Peter Raeg, in an impish, smiling mood, and with newly shaved head accentuating his huge, chocolate eyes. In the finale of *Gay Dreams*, the ever-ready Shane takes on both Peter and Michael in a bout of such intensity that Michael cums four times during its sizzling climax. If you don't be-lieve it, the unedited footage is inlieve it, the unedited footage is included afterward as a Bonus. All told, the elegantly filmed and strikingly performed *Gay Dreams* has the sweat, strain and furor of



Rollins is wide-open to happiness

tender, joyful male love. What a

Last week, I praised Titan's Ex-hibition. Gay Dreams is its frater-nal twin — porn of unrelenting heat, but even better, of an art and sensibility its makers and viewers can be proud of. When I spoke with Chris Ward recently, he said, with Chris Ward recently, he said, "I take pride in the variety of what we do, and the depth of our work." And while other companies may have variety, few have such ongoing quality. Check it out in three upcoming Shane Rollins features, one co-starring Carlos Morales, another remaking a Judy Garland classic as A Porn Star is Born, and finally, you'll see the star plopped aptly down into Poke, Prod and Penetrate. ▼

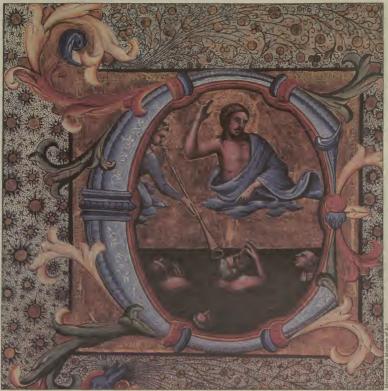






# **Great illuminations**

## Italian manuscript painting on vivid display at the Legion of Honor



Last Judgment in an Initial C, by Lorenzo Monaco (c. 1406-7): never intended for display to the public.

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#### by Will Shank

ne of the many treasures of New York's Metropolitan Museum is the Robert Lehman Collection, which you will find in the back of the rambling museum, on a central axis on Central Park, just beyond the central gallery where the Baroque Christmas tree is set up every winter. While Met blockbusters rage all around the Lehman Wing, works of quiet beauty, mostly by early Italian masters, remain on view there year-round. (The occasional Big Show, like a retrospective of the early Sienese painter Sassetta, or a scholarly look at Venice's "The Horses of San Marco," has been known to occupy the space.)

Rarest of all are the delicate works on paper or parchment from the Lehman Collection which are currently on view at the Legion of Honor in Treasures of a Lost Art: Italian Manuscript Painting of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Because of their light-sensitivity, limited exposure time is demanded, so a look at these jewels is a rare opportunity indeed. The good news is that, because of their protected status, many of the intense colors applied by the cloistered "illuminators" are as vivid as the centuries of their origin, which in the case of the Legion show, are the 13th through the

16th.

High in quality, small in scale, the 66 illuminated manuscripts demand a great deal of attention from the viewer, and magnifying glasses are available for close scrutiny of the handiwork of Italian masters working in monasteries from Lombardy to Emilia 500 or more years ago.

or more years ago.

The titles, too, require a certain strangeness of vocabulary to overcome for the uninformed viewer.

No self-portraits or landscapes are present, but the figural religious scenes, surrounded by swirls of decorative initials, are identified by both the painting's subject and its alphabetical "frame." Thus: "Blessing Christ in an Initial B," or "Pentecost in an Initial A."

Once one has established a common language (and the wall text helps in distinguishing a Missal from a Psalter), it is easy to become absorbed in the intensity of the colors and the purity of the forms. The monastic illuminators performed their miniature miracles, never intended for display to a general public, for the eyes of scholars and clergy, and of course for the glory of God, whose Roman Catholic rituals they illustrated. The illustrations serve as "chapter headings" for the texts of the liturgy, or for the music of the Mass. Larger, wordless works of art served as a means of Christian education for the largely illiterate

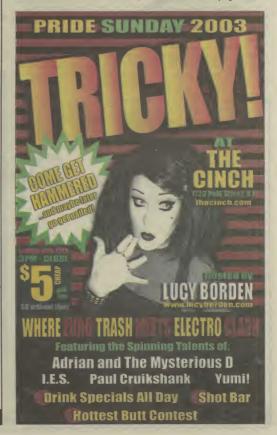
#### **Binding matters**

A "Saint John the Baptist in an Initial D" (ca. 1470-80) provides an intimate look at a small-scale work by Cosimo Tura, a Ferrarese artist best-known for his saints painted on walls as life-size frescoes. Like almost all of the other works, this one is a fragment which was previously a leaf of a book. Only one intact volume is presented, the Getty Museum's 15th-century Missal for the Anti-Pope John XXIII. Nearby didactic installations walk the viewer through the complexity of creating and binding such a volume.

Lorenzo Monaco (Lawrence the Monk), the teacher of Fra Anti-

Lorenzo Monaco (Lawrence the Monk), the teacher of Fra Angelico, who was the pride of the Convent of San Marco in Florence in the 15th century, is represented by a splendid leaf titled "Last Judgment in an Initial C" from

page 85 ▶





KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Safety Information

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®,
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have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients

taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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# Man about town and country

# Talking gay issues with author Mark Merlis

by Gregg Shapiro

n his third novel, Man About n his third novel, Man About Town, award-winning novelist Mark Merlis (American Studies) introduces us to Joel, a middleaged man whose life is coming apart at the seams. His job on Capitol Hill makes him feel like a traitor, his life-partner has left him for a younger man, and in the midst of his other crises, a long-standing obsession with a faceless standing obsession with a faceless male model from a magazine ad resurfaces to further complicate his resurfaces to further complicate his life. Amusing and sometimes sad, Man About Town offers plenty to satisfy Merlis' growing audience of readers. I recently spoke with the author about his newest book.

Gregg Shapiro: In your new novel, you write about a variety of issues affecting the gay community, such as the subject of age. When the partner of Joel, the main character, leaves him for a younger man, he seems to become acutely aware of his own age, as well as the ages of the men in his social circle. Mark Merlis: When I started

Mark Meris: When I started the book, I was feeling my age. The book is set in 1995, and I was 45 then. I know a lot of men in late middle age, and most of them seem to be handling it a lot better than Joel. I suppose it's partly be-cause Joel has the shock of having thought he had settled into somethough the had settled into some-thing for life and that turns out not to be true. I was exploring, in a way, what might have happened to me if I'd been in the same situ-ation. I think that there is a growing body of gay fiction that is about age, as the first generation of post-Stonewall writers has been aging. Andrew Holleran, for example, with The Beauty of Men. The main character of that book is in kind of the same situation.

Another issue in the book is long-term relationships in the gay community, and they way they can abruptly come to an end, such as Joel and Sam's relationship.



We develop a kind of private religion with its own set of symbols.

I've been in a very long-term relationship myself, a little over 20 years. So I was exploring the what if of the situation of what if I'd been walked out on. I know there are readers who wished they had seen a lot more of Sam and could have understood better what that ish a book, you think you did

everything wrong, and you hate it. I kind of think maybe that I should have shown more of Sam. should have shown more of Sam. On the other hand, maybe it was best to leave him as abstract as he is. I'm living out in the country, in a place called New Hope, Pennsylvania, and there are a lot of couples here. This is a place where people retire together. So I'm seeing a lot of long-term relationships that are working, and I wonder if it isn't just in urban centers where people think gay life is all promiscuity and one-night-stands.

You also write about race issues in the gay community, specifically Joel's relationship with Michael, who is African-American.

The other thing about my long-term relationship is that it is with an African-American. I've always wanted to explore the paradox of my being drawn to dox of my being drawn to African-Americans generally and to my lover in particular, and at the same time my being, as all of us are, a racist. That's what I was trying to explore here. Maybe it's not true of much younger people, but anyone who was raised in my generation was raised as a racist and had to overcome it. Stereotypes were everywhere, so some-where in me is this homunculus racist, just as somewhere in me there's something that believes in Santa Claus. I once wanted to write a whole book about race, and this has satisfied my impulse on that. I don't want to look into it any more deeply than I did.

Man About Town also deals with politics, specifically in regard to Joel's job on Capitol Hill. I imag-

Joe of Lapito Hill: Imag-ine that part of this is also written from your own experience, be-cause you worked on Capitol Hill. I pretty much had Joel's job. I was a non-partisan advisor on things like Medicare. It became less things like Medicare. It became less enchanting to be that in 1995. Con-gress changed profoundly during the time that I was working for it. There really was some degree of bipartisanship when I started there in the late '80s, and that vanished in the early Clinton years. The book is set in '95, but it could have been set last week, because there's the same degree of sound-bites and ways of king to make points, rather than addressing any social problems.

Your first novel, American Studies, dealt with history as well. Are

ies, dealt with history as well. Are history and politics subjects that hold a fascination for you?

Yes, they do. In fact, I'm thinking of making my next novel a historical novel as well. Not far back in history, but I think it's going to take place in the '50s and '60s.

At the center of Man About Town is Joel's obsession with a model in a magazine advertisement from his childhood. What can you tell

me about obsession as a theme?

I think that in all three of my books, one subject has been the inbooks, one subject has been the in-tersection of religious and sexual longing. Joel actually talks about it in a self-parodic way. It may be true for straight people as well, but for gay people growing up during that period when you think you're the only one who ever appeared on the planet, we develop a kind of private religion with its own set of symbols and icons that mean something and icons that mean something only to us. Until we come to find other people like ourselves, it seems to me that's how it feels. That you've made up your own kind of Biblical system of things you worship.

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What is ALLETRA and how does it work?

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and for children age 6 months and older.

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- To bring the great discussion of the great was the great with sour discussion. 

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What happens if I have foo much KALE IRA?

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Medicines that require decage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take. Before you take Kingyare (didentally with KALETRA lake to your doctor about problems there two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased the effects of VALGRA, such as low blood greatment, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection last longer than 4 hours, age to medical help right away to avoid permanent demage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraceptives ("ALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives: Existing to Kaustrally on neuritary ("Alexandra") may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your done of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirence or nevirapine.

If you are taking Mycoburin (ritabuins), your doctor will lower the done of Mycoburin.

- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nau sea and vomiting can occur
- sea and virining can occur

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  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or
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#### What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report an new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are abdominal pain, abnormal stools (howed movements), disarrhea, feeling weak/irted, beadache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may show possible lively problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who have KALETRA may have worening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients that offer all the studies of the second patients of the second patients and the second patients and other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Some patients thating KALETRA caused these liver problems to have a higher chance of having pancreastins if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have massea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- tease inhibitors is not known at this time.

  Diabetes and high bood sugar (hyperplycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others die not. Some patients nad changes in sheir diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

  Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (\*buffalo hump\*), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happer. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with prinhibitors.

- \*\*Some proteins with teleopoinan take included obecaming water proteins with teleopoinan take included obecaming the proteins of the content of the content
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

#### How do I store KALETRA?

- How de I store MALETRA? Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

• Avoid exposure to excessive heat.
Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine way, it is out of the reach of children. General advice about prescription medicines:
Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any consens about this medicine, eak your doctor. Or without the professionals. Do not use this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other peach table that was the professionals. The maken of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.

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# **Cover model makes good**

# Brad Gooch on 'Dating the Greek Gods'

by David Lamble

Dating the Greek Gods: Empowering Spiritual Messages on Sex and Love, Creativity and Wisdom by Brad Gooch; Simon & Schus-

he face on the cover of Brad Gooch's Dating the Greek Gods served its owner exceedingly well during the years he was a male fashion model. Gooch, who could still be carded for buying cigarettes despite six published books and 50 or so years on the planet, insists that he was only a B model. It was the A guys who made the big bucks back in the days when Calvin Klein was convincing Calvin Klein was convincing Madison Avenue that underwear ads — "sort of gay porn redone by a straight athlete and called fashion" — could be plastered bigger than life on Broadway. "The A models were like male supermodels for that time, photographed by Bruce Weber. There were five or six of them, and then the rest of us." the rest of us.'

the rest of us."
Gooch would later base his first novel, *Scary Kisses* (just reissued by Overlook Press), on his years doing the circuit — New York, Milan, Paris. "That book for me is really about the beginning of the '80s. Andy Warhol is a character in that book. The experience (of being a book." book. The experience [of being a model] was fun but alienating. [Scary Kisses:] that's the alienation part, and also the sexuality, because it was like high school. I had already come out; I had been in graduate school; and I had written a book of poems and a book of stories; and then I became a model, and suddenly I was hanging around with these guys who were pretending they were straight, pretending to be athletes. It was very much like hanging around with the jocks from high

school."
Gooch's time as a model was light-years removed from today's world, where cute, young indie actors are advised to push their picture career through sexy undressing in the pages of *Interview, Contents* or *The Face.* "No one had grown up wanting to be a model. I remember especially the attitude in Italy was that you were a whore or a hustler, that you were gay, or a hustler, that you were gay, which didn't bother me, but bothered some of these guys. It was

breaking a taboo, to have men as sex objects."

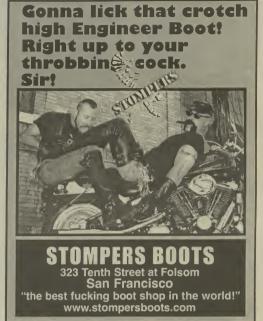
Gooch says the male casting Gooch says the male casting couch was a busy place during his days as a model. "I remember some designer in Italy basically offering me his campaign if I would go away to some Greek island with him, and I just didn't want to. Someone else apparently did, and this guy was married and had Greek Gods, is his second self-help volume (the first was Finding the Boyfriend Within) and draws on his background as an Assistant Professor of English at The William Patterson College of New Jersey, where he says he teaches "the offspring of the Sopranos."

He recalls a student who came out to him because of the new book, citing the section on the god

out to him because of the new book, citing the section on the god Hermes, the god of communication. Gooch says he was taken completely by surprise that his student was gay. "I used to be so proud of my 'gaydar.' He wore a beard and a heavy-metal T-shirt and always talked about sports and stuff. I moved into earnest dialogue with him like, 'Well, you could call the gay hotline, and maybe you could go to the gay bar called Feathers in New Jersey.' And he said, 'Well, I don't really like Feath-ers, I'm more into bears.'' Gooch's books are ex-

efs, I m more into bears.

Gooch's books are extremely eclectic in their range of subjects, from a highly regarded biography of the gay poet Frank O'Hara (now optioned to be a movie) to Godalak, a survey of America's spectrum of offbeat religions. Gooch says that just prior to 9/11 he interviewed a cross-section of Muslims in New York City who were looking forward to having their faith move from an exotic species to being considered a mainstream American religion. Sadly, he notes 9/11 has forced many American Muslims to return to their job of raising America's religious IQ. A young skateboarder Muslim he had talked to for the book recently confided to him their between the unconfided to boarder Mussium he had taked to him that he wishes he weren't Muslim anymore, so tired has he become of his faith's association with terrorism.





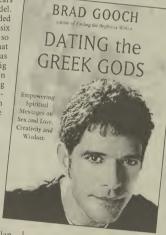
LATIN MUSIC. PARTIES. EVENTS - RECEPTIONS 1-800-332-8802 for details

bossanossa@attbi.com



### **BEST LITTLE WAREHOUSE IN SF!**

Jack Off Warehouse at the Circle J Club SF's Only Nighttime & Daytime JO Club Club open daily 10am 'til approx 12M



kids, and then he got the cam-paign, and I knew what had happengd, so there was a slight hus-tling aspect to it, less in New York. New York was already 'profession-al,' so there was less of that some-how. I never felt any pride at mod-eling, I always thought it was some

eling, I aways urought it was some strange game.
"With writing or acting, it's a craft to be mastered, but with modeling, it was so unpredictable what they'd be looking for. Such a one-night-stand of a profession. Recently, I did a [perfume] ad where it listed me as 'writer' at the bottom. They've always said they're into 'real life.' Real life on Saturn, maybe.

#### On the catwalk

Aside from his picture in *GQ*, Gooch worked as a runway model in Paris, a job he had been warned in Paris, a job he had been warned he would never get because he was "too introverted. Also, they used to give you, I don't know if they still do, cocaine and things before you went out on the runway, and that sort of helped turn an introvert into an extravert." t into an extrovert."
His new book, Dating the

# **Treasures ▼** page 82

1406/07. A "Kiss of Judas" is almost homoerotic in the skillful juxtaposition of the two men, on the left half of an Initial M from a Veronese antiphonary, 1467-70, who are paired with a legion of armed Roman guards, who try to ignore the intimate scene, on the right side of the M.

In an age of mass-produced images which bombard us with every step we take in the 21st century, there is great peace to be found in the careful calligraphy and the unforgiving media of egg tempera and gold leaf on display

at the Legion.

The Met loans give the Fine
Arts Museums an excuse to show off a fine new acquisition, a glazed terra-cotta tondo, a three-dimen-sional, low-relief roundel in white

and blue by the 15th-century Floand blue by the 15th-century Florentine ceramic master Andrea della Robbia, a "Virgin and Child with Putti" which perfectly combines saintliness with an earthy maternal quality, in that Quattro-

cento way.

The Fine Arts Museums are also complementing the manu-script exhibition throughout the summer with artist demonstrations of how this lost art was created, as a collaboration with the San Francisco Center for the Book san Francisco Center for the Book and the Italian Cultural Institute. For information on these programs, call 415.682.2481 or e-mail rbaldocchi@famsf.org. ▼

Treasures of a Lost Art: Italian Manuscript Painting of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, through August 31 at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Information: (415) 863-3330.



#### **Out There**

**■** page **66** 

a masculine smell.' (I couldn't tell if speaking to Mario Lopez about scents was my all-time apex or absolute nadir — that's how delirious perfumy air makes me.)"



Lopez as Louganis now and forever

Our primary reason for repeat-Our primary reason for repeating this item is, of course, to share this juicy picture of Lopez, which normally lives on our bulletin board (non-virtual) at work. Here he is portraying the Olympic diver **Greg Louganis** in *Breaking the Surface: The Greg Louganis Story*, the *USA Network* TV-movie based on his memoir. We've met the real Louganis in the flesh, but even still, we treasure this version.

Cyber yawn
Maybe there is a good movie to
be made based upon the current
explosion of virtual sex and webcam action, but alas, On\_Line,
opening Friday, June 27 at the
Galaxy in San Francisco and the
Camera in San Jose, is not it. Firsttime director Jed Weintrob's cyharvey one is certainly visually inbersex opus is certainly visually in-teresting, using split-screen images and multiple perspectives convincingly, but this story of sex-portal



Young, confused, and live on the Internet: Eric Millegan in On\_Line

manager John Roth (**Josh Hamil-ton**) and the habitués of his inter-active webcam site lacks finesse. We took a fleeting interest in

the subplot connection between "man-on-man" host Al Fleming (John Fleck) and Ohio ingenue Ed Simone (Eric Millegan), but that soon dissipated. We never be-lieved they really got into role-playing "yachtsman/cabin boy." The movie's device of showing

what each character sees over the 'net on his or her computer screen only distances the audience further from these sad little lives. Finally, it was hard to care if these nally, it was nard to care it these folks got off, on-line or not. At least meeting a handsome stranger over tequila sunrises in a dark, smoke-free bar involves a smattering of social skills.

#### Telegenic corner

What glamorous young twen-What glamorous young twentysomething Bay Area reporter took time out of his brutal Prideissue schedule to appear, ready and raring to roundtable, on KQEDTV's This Week in Northern California panel show last Friday night? Why, none other than BAR assistant editor Matthew Bajko, that's who! And, once host Belva Davis got over stumbling over his surname, twice, Bajko's debut on the show was a breeze, showing those show was a breeze, showing those star reporters from the dailies a thing or two about the caliber of the independent gay press.

#### They made Moz

lack of a new Morrissey album in ack of a new **morrnssey** aboum in our column a few weeks ago than a new CD with the ex-**Smiths** frontman's name emblazoned upon it turned up in the New Releases racks at Arnoeba Music. No, it's not the long-awaited album of new material, but it's called *Under the Influence*, a collection of 15 "influences, in inspirations" which the fluences & inspirations" which the Moz himself chose from pop music *circa* 1970s Manchester, and it helps with the wait.



Some of his favored artists are predictable (in his liner notes, Morrissey writes, "The New York Dolls irked all the little, spare, priggish men who controlled the music business at every level.") But it turns out Morrissey also loves Patti Smith ("an irascible soul who hates the fluffy"), The Ramones ("Joey is whooping cough on two impossible long legs"), and Klaus Nomi ("an early bull's-eye for the AlDS machine-gun.")

There are even a few, slight same-sex angles to the disc. In 'Breaking the Rules," Ludus envisions a world of "female plus female" and "male plus male." And if the chorus of Jaybee Wasden's "De Castrow" isn't a paean to Gay Some of his favored artists are

"De Castrow" isn't a paean to Gay Main St., USA, then it sure sounds like it. Hate homophobes, *love* homophones. Morrissey's proceeds from the CD go to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). FILM

# North of Belize

# Carlos Reygadas' enigmatic 'Japón'

by Robert Julian

he title of 31-year-old Carlos Reygadas' first film, Japón (Japan) is a complete non sequitur. Japón takes place in rural Mexico and has nothing to do with Japan or the Far East. Working with a cast of non-professionals, Reygadas produces an enigmatic work that contains little dialogue and unfolds slowly over two hours.

over two hours.

An older man (Alejandro Ferretis) treks to a small town, located at the bottom of an enormous canyon, to commit suicide. He meets an aged widow, Ascen (Magdalena Flores), who allows him to stay in her barn and, for a few days, sleep there in the bed of her late husband. But the serenity of the remote village and the activities of its residents cause the man to gradually revise his plan and researchen to life. reawaken to life

reawaken to life. Japón, with its sweeping vistas and leisurely pace, might best be described as a meditation on the human condition. Life unfolds slowly before our eyes with all its cruelty, compassion, and sorrow intact. Reygadas' actors have faces as weathered and rugged as the mountains of Mexico. And their lives and activities function on such a simple level they recall the parables of the Old Testament. Japón is beautiful, ponderous, evocative, frustrating, sad, erotic, slow, and — in many ways — wonderful. Most importantly, it is a film whose images will linger in the minds of viewers long after the final reel unfolds.  $\blacksquare$ 

Japón plays the Castro Theater June 30-July 3.

#### SFILGFF '03

identity of his real father, by placing a sex ad. A high-powered female cast (Dianne Wiest, Jane Birkin and Vanessa Redgrave) makes you forget the loony implausibility of it all. (Castro, 6/26)



Merci Docteur Rey: high-powered

Mango Soufflé This Indian trifle

out the music. Six friends are spending a Boys in the Band-style weekend on a sultry country es-tate, where a brother and sister compete for the affections of a fickle hunk named Ed (Atul Kulkarni). Kamlesh (the sizzlingly hot, ponytailed Ankur Vikal) is torn between his lust for Ed, who (Rinkie Khanna), and affection for his flamboyant ex-boyfriend, Sharad. As Sharad, Faredoon Dodo Bhujwala gives a bitchy,

Dodo Bhujwala gives a bitchy, Harold-like reading to the author's message, a rebuke to India's upper-class sexual hypocrites.

A rocky first act (a Will & Grace-style spoof of a Noel Coward drawing-room comedy) gives way to softcore eroticism (some sexy underwater shots of Ed and Kamlesh smoothing) and a not sexy underwater shots of Ed and Kamlesh smooching) and a not untypically Bollywood-like dizzy ending, in which Ed and his tacky mustache are sent packing. It's no Y Tu Mama, but then, what is? (Herbst, 6/27) ▼

www.frameline/org.festival





RETURN PASS ARE GOOD FOR ONE TIME ONLY



### Fri 27

SF Gay Men's Chorus

(a) Mission High School

25th Annivesary Pride Concert featuring
the mighty San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, under the baton of Conductor/Artistic
Director Dr. Kathleen McGuire, Joined by
The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco
(Conductor/Artistic Director Brancisco
(Conductor/AD Jadine Louie). Special
guest: B.D. Wong, award-winning Broadway, television and film actor (M. Butterfly,
Oz; Law & Order: SVU). SF native, father,
and author (Following Foo: The Electronic
Adventures of the Chestrut Man). Program
highlight: "Oliver Button is a STAR," a
musical adaptation of Tomle dePaola's
beloved children's book Oliver Button is a
Sissy; It's the heart-warming tale of a child
who would rather tap dance than play ball.
\$20 adv/\$25 door. Tpm & 9pm. Murphy
Auditorium, Mission High School, 3750
18th St. Info/tix: 865-3650;
www.sfgmc.or

Tricone's "LOVE UTSAV"

Tricone's "LOVE UTSAV"

(a) Al Fanous

Welcome to "LOVE UTSAV: A celebration of queer desi low." It's Triklone's Pride Dance Party starring queer desi DJ Keshav Jiwnani spinning Bollywood, bhangra, desi pop, trance, American pop, and world music. \$8-510 sliding. 9pm. 3,170 16th St. (at Guerrero, next to Pakwan).

Fudgie Frottage's Birthday

@ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute hosts "Fudgie Frottage's Birthday — Pride Friday Firnale," featuring gender-bending performances, music and dancing, \$10-\$15 5 liding, Tym reception, 8pm performances begin, \$F LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tixinfo: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Connie Champagne

The Plush Room

The plush Ro



Main Stage Sunday: June and Bonnie Pointer, showing few signs of slowing down. These gals got it goin' on! 4pm

& 29. The Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Tix: 885-2800.

Murray Hill & Wau-Wau Sisters

@ SomArts Theater
National Queer Arts Festival (NQAF)
Event: "Three Sheets to the Wind," featuring New York City's reigning alternative
nightlife icons Murray Hill and the WauWau Sisters in a night of cheesy songs, irrepressible shitick, death-defying trapez routines in skimpy outlis, electric guitars, and
other nonsense. S12 day, \$15 door. 8pm.
934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.) Tix/info: 3340722; queercultura/center. org

LAVA's 'High Tide'

@ Dance Mission Theater

NQAF Event: From New York City comes

"High Tide," a show of acrobatics, intimate
partnering, singing, talking and dancing,
about love, velocity and abstract art, inspired by Niagara Falls, saturated colors,

and the importance of conflict resolution. Co-presented by Dance Brigade. \$17 adv; \$20 door (\$10 under 12). 8pm. Also June 28 (10pm) & 29 (7pm). 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 273-4633; www.dance-mission.com

QueLACo Poetry Event @ La Galería De La Raza

NQAF Event: QueLACo (Queer Latino/a Artists Coalition) and Qcc present a night of readings by poets in the community, \$5. 6pm reception; 7pm reading, 2857 24th St. (at Bryant), Info: 826-8009; www.galeri-adelaraza.or

Queer Jitterbugs @ The Stud "Queer Jitterbugs Weekly Swing Club."
6:30 basic East Coast Swing for beginners.
7:pm intermediate moves. 7:30-10ish. Lesson package 55; dancing after 7:3pm free.
The Stud, 9th and Harrison. Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

"Latin Explosion"

@ Bench & Bar, Oakland
Club Papi presents "Latin Explosion," the
Pride Kick-Off Party featuring DJ Marco
(Muevelo), Laty Latin go-gos, prize giveaways, and more. \$10 (no passes). 9pm2am, 21+w/lb. 120 11th St., Oakland.
Info: 510-444-2266; Bench-and-Bar.com

Queer Mafia @ Swedish American Hall @ Swedish American Hall
Quer Mafia presents "Sexcapades: A Carnival of Perversity" for dykes, queers and
trannies 18 & up. Anonymous cocksucking
booth; hula-hoop a naked babe "ring toss"
for kinky prizes; lap dancing; hot wax spin
and more. \$15-\$25 sliding. 9pm. 2174
Market St. (above Cafe Du Nord). Info:
queermafia@hotpop.com; queer-mafia.org

Armistead Maupin @ Virgin Megastore

Pride Parade Grand Marshal Armistead Maupin greets admirers and autographs/blesses copies of his "Tales of the City" DVD and novels. Meet him start-ing at 7pm. 2 Stockton St. (at Market).

'Girl Pride' @ Sound Factory \*\*Girl Pride\*\* (a) Sound Factory Page Hodel Invos the annual monster bash pre-parade weekend kick-off dance \*\*Girl Pride.\*\* Expect more than 2,000 women in three huge rooms for Hip Hop, House, and Old School 70's 80's. Featuring DJs Edal, Page Hodel, Exzy Medena, Ectal, Olga T, Jorge Terez, Noel, plus go go dancers and a visual lightshow. \$15. 9pm-4am. 525 Harrison St. (at 2nd St).

Scott Capurro @ Most Holy Redeemer

(@) Most Holy Redeemer ""Make It So" Productions presents Bay Area legend and recent NYC transplant co-median/author/radio personality/actor/play-wright/superstar Scott Capurro in a special show of solo comedy. Expect dark-edged wit and scathing social commentary in an intimate theatre atmosphere. \$20. 8pm. Parish Half, Most Holy Redeemer,100 Diamond St. Tix: 863-0741.

Thea Austin/Juanita More @ 'Fag Fridays'

@ 'Fag Fridays'
San Francisco's most sophisticated and elegant drag diva Juanita More hosts the "Fag Fridays' official Pride Weekend Kick-Off Party at The Endup, featuring a live performance by Thea Austin, plus the turntable prowess of Rolo, Ruben Mancias, and David Harness. 10pm doors; dancing till afterhours. 21+wID. 401 6th St. (at Harrison). Info: 263-4850; www.fagfridays.com

DJ Paulo @ 'Temple'

DJ Paulo (g. 1 emple: Gus presents the Pride Weekend kick-off party "Temple" at a virgin warehouse loca tion (1515 Folsom St. near 11th St.), fea-turing the sounds of DJ Paulo (LA), \$15 adv/\$20 door, 10pm-5am. Tix at body, Rolo on Castro, Always Tan+Trim, Body Body Wear; www.guspresents.com

'Deep' @ Cherry Bar

Lady Beyond & Girl Breezy present "Deep" with DJs Switch, Motive and Noni X, go-go's, & a drop-yer-pants & booty-shakin' contest with The Mayor giving away \$100 cash prize. \$7. 8pm-2am. 917 Folsom St. (at 5th). Info: 974-1585

### **Sat 28**

'Pride Run 2003'

@ Golden Gate Park
San Francisco FrontRunners present "Pride
Kan 2003," celebrating Gay Pride with a
5k run, a 5k walk, and a 10k run. Benefiting the Int'l. Gay and Lesbian Human
Rights Commission and the Lavender Youth
Recreation and Information Center
(LYRIC). \$25. 7:30am registration; 9am
race begins. Stowe Lake Boat House, Golden Gate Park. Info/registration: 978-2429;
www.sffrontrunners.org

'Commitment Ceremony @ City Hall/Pride Stage

"4th Annual Domestic Partnership Commit-ment Ceremony and Reception" on the Main Stage at Pride, presented by Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, Equality California, and Marriage Equality California. Main Stage, City Hall. 1-2pm. Info: www.egca.org

'Queeriosity & Monster'

@ **ODC Theater**NQAF Event: Youth Speaks presents
"Queeriosity & The Monster Debut," bringing together established writers and the poets of Youth Speaks. Curated by Joel Barraquiel Tan, debuting his first book of poetry, Monster (Noise Press). Music interludes by Lolan Sevilla of Flip Dyke poets and Tim'm from DeepDikCollective. 55 youth; \$10 adult. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Txinfire: 863-9844 ticketweb.com; youthspeaks.org

Ggreg's 'Colossal Colon Tour'

@ Justin Herman Plaza

Join Ggreg ("Forgotten Opera") Taylor and friends for an outing to "The Colossa" Colon," a 40-foot long, 4-foot high replica of a human colon created by Molly McMaster, a 26-year-old cancer survivor. Join queers in crawling through the colon, modeled after a real colon and extremely life-like. Gerbil costumes encouraged. Free.

Noon-Zpm. Info: www.ggreg.com

Noon-Zpm. Info: www.ggreg.com

'SF Dyke March'

@ Dolores Park
Lesbians Unite! The 11th annual "San
Francisco Dyke March," the largest annual
grassroots lesbian event in the world, a
march for social and sexual freedom. Tea
dance, music, speakers in Dolores Park 57pm; march departs at 7:30pm and eventually winds up at the "Pink Saturday" celebration in the Castro. Say the organizers:
"The Dyke March is a radical, feminist, celebration of of women-loving-women . . . as
always, we thank our brothers for supporting us by standing on the sidelines and
cheering us on." Info: 241-8882;
www.dykemarch.org

'OutLoudSF' @ 'Pink Saturday'

'OutLoudSF' @ 'Pink Saturday'

"OutLoudSF" @ 'Pink Saturday'
The OutLoudSF Posse present "Out-LoudSF," the dyke-produced street party at
"Pink Saturday" in the Castro. MCs: Exo-dus, Fairy Butch and Machiko Salto. DJs:
Black featuring Mama Vetren, Edaj, Ellen Ferrato, Loca Lavado, Olga T., The Special-ist and special guests. Free. Børn to 12 Midnight (immediately following the Dyke



Main Stage Sunday: gay rap artist Deadlee, 5:55pm

March). Corner of Market and Castro. Info: www.outloudsf.org

'Pride Square Dance'
@ SF Friends Meeting House
Western Star Dancers host "Pride Square
Dance." \$10 (\$8 members), 7:30-10:30pm.
65 Ninth St. (at Market).

'Pride Extravaganza' @ mezzanine

@ mezzanine
"SF Pride Extravaganza." The body-booming Funktion One Sound System gets ignited
for a night of hot men, superior sound,
amazing lights, surprise shows and hunky
dancers. DJs Billy Carroll and Jamie J
Sanchez helm the decks with an exclusive
performance by circuit superstars Funky
Green Dogs. SJS. 10pm-7am. Tix: 1-888TIX-ONLY (Special event, no passes). 44
Jessie (at Mint). Info: 820-9669; www.mezzaninesf.com

The Brown Party' @ Space 550
Club Papi presents "The Brown Party," the official SF Gay Pride Latin Party, with DJs Mike (Arena, LA) in the main room, Jorge Terez (Bootylicious) in the hip-hop room, and Jose (Muevelo) in the Armor Tropical Room. Live on stage: Spanish pop diva Minerva singing hits. Plus: Latin freestyle divas The Cover Girls. \$20 (no passes). 10pm-4am. 21+w/ID. 550 Barneveld St. (btwn Oakdale & Industrial off Bayshore). Info: 675-9763; www.papipresents.com

Pansy Division

@ Bottom of the Hill

Celebrate Pride and punkness with live bands XBXRX, Pansy Division, and Paradise Island. The Pansies, in case you didn't know already, are the most famous queer punk band on the planet. S8. 10pm. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St. at Texas.

'Fencesitters Ball' @ Jezebel's Joint

@ Jezebel's Joint
Celebrate Pride at 'The Fencesitters Ball," a
bi dance party, with DJ Rodent (Bondage a
Go Go) and guests, drink specials, giveaways,
and the hottest bi boys and girls from around
the Bay! \$5 cover after 10pm (Threesome
Special: one of the three gets in free). 9pm2am. 21-wi/D. Jezebel's Joint, 510 Larkin
at Turk (free off-street parking off Turk between Larkin and Polik behind the tire place).
Info: 345-9832; jezebelsjointsf.com

'Fairy Butch' @ Club Galia "In Bed With Fairy Butch For Women, Transfolks & Their Pals," a campy, queer erotic cabaret and dance party following the dyke march. 9pm doors; 10:30pm show Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd St). Info: www.fairybutch.com

'Klübb' @ The Endup DJs Sam LaBelle and Marcus Perness host



Main Stage Sunday: Powder, a nonstop super charged ranaway train from L.A. Over the top costumes. 12:30 p.m.

# Calendare by Mark Mardon On the Main Stage

On the Main Stage

You just can't go wrong with a funky band like Bitesize, taking the Main Stage at Pride on Sunday, 6:15 p.m. They've got a Talking Heads flair and zing in their step. Bitesize play "reckless gender-queer pop anthems for the masses," and they mean what they play. It's got that thrashy noise-pop '80s feel with extra-added synth power and painfully fun adolescent voices and themes. This year Pansy Division takes a break, but all-superstar dragrock kick-ass punk band Pepperspray will be on the Main Stage Sunday, and they pack a wallop! The members are Tinkle, Princess Kennedy, Precious Moments, Peggy L-Eggs, Jordan L'Moore, Tim Perdue, and Jennifer Hope. They will rock your world.

The band Powder, from LA, wear wild outfits sure to captivate the mod jet-set crowd, as will their rockin' website www.powdermusic.com, which offers their colorful Sonic Machine turbo-pop album. Powder play at 12:30 p.m., right after Garrin Benfield (12:20 p.m.), who will play a few songs, then make his way to Faerie Freedom Village at 2 p.m. to offer a full concert with his band under shade trees and amid friendly faeries. Garrin is the singer/songwriter genius who followed the Grateful Dead for years, then became a sensation on his own with lots of Deadhead fans in tow.

During the fourth hour on Sunday, hosted by funnypersons Marga Gomez and Murray Hill, look for the band Betty, comprised of Alyson Palmer, Amy Ziff, her sister Elizabeth Ziff, who have been rocking fans and freaks of all ages and every persuasion all around the world. Their latest project is the smash Off-Broadway hit Betty Rules, soon to tour North America. Of course you can't go wrong with Bonnie and June Pointer, who've been showing San Francisco they still know how to keep a dance floor going. They always save the best for last, and on Sunday that means The Woodyz, a local band of five drag kings doing 50's/60's covers and golden oldies and other ditties to make to you feel gay.

Saturday's Main Stage Jazz/Blues line-up under the divine guidance



Main Stage Sunday (and later on the Faerie Freedom Village Stage): singer/songwriter sensation Garrin Benfield, 12:20pm (2pm FFV)

'ReUNION SF' @ The Galleria 'ReUNION SF' @ The Galleria Noble Beast presents "ReUNION San Francisco," the official Saturday night party for SF day Pride. Theme: Celebrating Community. Featuring DJ Paul Goodyear (Mardi Gras, Sleaze Ball, Fire Island Pines Party), with performances by Ceevox, Kitty Meow, and Aubery. VIP 1tx include VIP Entrance, VIP Coat Check, VIP Lounge with hosted donated bar. \$50-\$130. 9pm-Sam. SF Design Center, 10.1 Henry Adams St. (SoMa). Tix/info: www.NobleBeast.org

### <u>Sun 29</u>

'Score!' @ Club 220

SF Pride 2003 Dance Arena Fag Fridays presents non-stop beats with top San Francisco house music DJs Lisa Friedlander, Rolo, Ruben Mancias, Ellen Ferrato, Pete Avila, David Harness and Neon Leon, with a live performance by a guest diva. 12 noon-7pm. Polk & Grove St.

Soul of Pride Stage & Village
Feel the funk at the Soul of Pride AfricanAmerican Stage on McAllister near Hyde.
An all-day showcase of Soul, Hip-Hop,
Dance, R&B and Soul Rock with live
Bands, great DJs, and Black Bay Area inspirational speakers and MCs. Producers:
Blue Buddha and Former Miss Gay San
Francisco Jelousy. Resident DJ: Sean G
(The Underground at The Stud). McAllister
near Hyde. 11am-6pm.

Sundance Saloon Dance Corral John "Sundance Saloon" at the Pride Cele-bration for non-stop two-stepping, line dancing, waltzing, swing dancing, and Country Western spirit. Produced by the Sundance Assn. for Country-Western Danc-ing, an all-volunteer nonprofit that pro-motes C-W dancing in the Bay Area GLBT

Nectar: The Women's Stage Experience the electrifying talents of Dance Brigade, Zarillion Dance Theatre, Sistaz of the Underground, Spirit Drumz, DJ Black, Chili D, Eddi, Trashina and a host of others. Golden Gate & Leavenworth.

Asian & Pacific Islander Stage Asian & Pacific Islander Stage
Deejays from 'N Touch and various A&Pl
clubs kick off the beats at noon, with performances by GAPA Dance Company, Culture Shock, Sawatdee Dancers, the Danny
Nguyen Dancers, the Rice Girls, The Metamorphosis Girls, UTOPIA, MxM, Prodig-,
Purple Moon Dance Project and more. Plus
Planet Hype recording artist Sharyn Maceren, Fatima, Alvendia and others. NoonTpm. Golden Gate & Polk St. Info: 2923420, x348; www.apiwellness.org

Pride Shadowplay Stage

Prince Shanowplay Stage
DJ Donimo ("Shadowplay" "Frequency")
hosts the Pride indie-music stage, an alternative to the house and country stages. Featuring home-town DJs including Don Baird
(Hole in the Wall; Eagle) and Donimo, plus
imported queer rawk DJs Simon Hobart,
Tommy Turntables, and Laurence from
"Popstarz," London playing indie, electro
and post-punk. Noon-6:30pm. Hyde St.
btwn Fulton & McAllister. Info: www.geocities.com/shadowplays f

Out Words Stage

Out Words Stage
Bound Together Books with Bolerium
Books presents the "Out Words Stage," the
place at Pride for literary folks. Readings
by Jim Provenzano, Judy Grahn, Will
Roscoe, Carol Queen, Kirk Read, Daphne
Gottlieb, Donald Currie, Sparrov Lachy
Wand 13, Jaime Cortez, Tim'm West, Har
ifah Walidah, Shalilia Patel and more Monkey Books presents writers Elizabeth
Chavez, Cathy Arellano, Carol Hill, Trina
Alexander and Meliza Banales. Dedicated

to Audre Lorde. Fulton btwn Hyde & Larkin (next to Asian Art Museum). 1-6pm.

Faerie Freedom Village

Facility Relationary Willage Enjoy the lati-back atmosphere, cool art, and great music in Facric Freedom Village. Featuring Garrin Benfield and band live on stage (2-3:30pm), plus DJ Mermaid, Pusspuss and others. Jokic X Wilson Poetry Reading at Jpm. United Nations Plaza (northwest of the fountain).

Latin Pride Dance Stage Club Papi Productions with The Bench & Bar of Oakland and WILD 94.9 FM pre-sents the Latin Pride Dance Stage, featur-ing the hottest in Latin rhythms, including cumbia, merengue, salsa and Spanish pop. Van Ness & McAllister.

SwingOUT Stage

SwingOUT, the Pride Swing Dance Stage, features dazzling performance by Queer Jit-terbugs at 1:30 and 3:30pm. Take lessons at 2pm and 4pm. Enjoy Open Swing Danc-ing 12 noon-6:30pm. Info: www.queer/jitter-bugs.com

Soulful Pride After Party

@ Club NV

Hip Hop, Soul, R & B, And House Classics.
Two dance floors, cozy lounges, and private
rooms, with the hottest DIs in the country.
Also a surprise guest performing live! Sponsored by 653 Entertainment.com,
CALAFIA, A/V's Cutie Pie, Swirl
Magazine, ClubRimshot.com and Sistahs Steppin.org, \$10.6 pm-2am. 626
Howard St. (at 1st St.).

Sundance Saloon @ Ramada Plaza Hotel

@ Ramada Plaza Hotel
"Sundance Saloon" presents a special
After-Pride celebration in the ballroom of
the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Country-Western
dance lessons 6-7:30pm; two-steppin' and
line dancin' 7:30-11pm. Special guest performers Mat Alber, Doug Stevens and
more. Light dinner menu available. 55. 611pm. 1231 market St. (a Bib St). Info:
820-1403; www.sundancesaloon.org

Harry Denton's 'Rouge'

(@) Harry Denton's 'Rouge'.
After the parade Join D. Page Hodel at the luscious, plush, deliciously sexy "Respect," a women's dance party starting at 4pm and going on through the night in a special 9-hour set by Hodel playing all your favorite dance music from the '70s & '80s mixed in with slammin' Hip Hop & House. \$10. Doors open 4pm. 1500 Broadway (at Polk).

'Pleasuredome' @ mezzanine \*Pleasuredome\* @ mezzanine \$F Pride ends on a high note as "Pleasure-dome" returns for one night only. Always the hottest Pride closing party. Special guest DJ Wayne G (Heaven, London) files in to grace the decks. Hot men and music. Sexy attire suggested. \$12 (no free passes). 9pm-8am. 444 Jessie (at Mint). Info: 820-9669; www.mezzanines/com.



Main Stage Sunday: fourth-hour host Murray Hill, entertainer, producer, writer, and "the hardest working middle-aged man in show

'Mass' @ The Warfield

"Mass" (@ Ine Warrieli
Gus presents "Mass" at a special location,
the historic Warfield Theater on Market
near the Civic Center Pride festivities. Featuring superstar DJs Roland Belmares and
Phil B, with live performance by Dolce. \$20
adw\$30 door. 5pm-midnight, 982 Market
SL (at 6th SL). Tix: body, Rolo on Castro,
Always Tan+Trim, Body Body Wear. Info:
www.guspresents.com

## **Mon 30**

Queer Swing Workshop

@ Jon Sims Center

"Fast Queer Swing Workshop" for beginners. No partner or experience needed. 79pm.1519 Mission St. (at 11th & S. Van Ness). Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

### Tue 1

Ronnie Gilbert @ North
Berkeley Senior Center
In concert: renowned singer/performer Ronnie Gilbert celebrates Gay Pride with a free
performance. Formerly of The Weavers, the
1940s/50s/50s group that put folk music
on the map (and endured McCarthyite redbaiting witchhunts), Gilbert lives in Berketley, Her 70th birthday tour with Holly Near
in 1996 was celebrated with the Abbe
Allic release, This Train Still Runs. Free.
All invited. 1:15pm. 1901 Hearst (corner of
Martin Luther King Blvd), Berkeley, Info:
Norma Ramos, 510-981-5190.

Carol Welsman

@ The Plush Room
Singerpjanist Carol Welsman (Welcar
Music, Canada; Sawoy Jazz) launches a full
month of Jazz in July, delivering a mix of
standards and originals blending languages
and rhythms with a versatile repertoire including swing, Latin, R&B, pop and Jazz.
Fluent in French, Italian and English, she
also sings in Portuguese. \$25 plus 2-drink
minimum. Bym. Tue-Sat thru July 6. York
Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

'Art Slam' @ mezzanine

"Art Slam" @ mezzanine
"Art Slam," in which Bay Area artist JD
Beltran explores image-making and the dynamic fusion between technology, digital
imagery, painting and sculpture. Plus Atelier Studio Gallery presents works by three
artists, James Scott Beras (male erotic abstract images), Mie Olis Kjaergaard (architecturally influenced paintings), and Christina La Sala ("Ambient" works). Free. 710pm (also on Wed, July 2, 7pm-midnight),
21-wi/D. 444 Jossie St. Info: 820-9669;
www.mezzaninesf.com

# Wed 2

GLBT Songwriter Series'

@ Bazaar Cafe
Singer/songwriter Kenni and friends host
the "GLBT Songwriter Series, the place to
find the best queer acoustic musicians in the
Bay Area. The venue is a tiny cafe out in
the Richmond avenues, which happens to be
the gathering place for folk musicians In
SF. No cover (donations encouraged). 7 pm.
Bazaar Cafe, 592 California St. Info:
www.kenni.com

## Thu 3

@ The Eagle Tavern
"Thursday Night Live" presents The Whoa
Nellies featuring Connie Champagne and
Leigh Crow. Join ST's Bubblegum Preservation Society as they sing favorite songs
from Hair and other gems from the Summer of Love. Also on the bill. The Beach
Girls, with an all-star line up of Bay Area
externations netforming classifes by the rock musicians performing classics by the original surf-music band. \$5. 9pm. 12th & Harrison.

### WANNA **SUBMIT?**

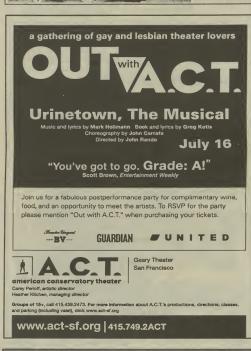
Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

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The Phoenix Uniform Club invites you to join us in celebrating our 12th Annual

### Uniform & Leather Ball

Friday, June 27th from 08:00 pm to Midnight In the historic Civic Center Area of San Francisco Includes: Hosted Bar, Appetizers, Buffet Dinner, Dessert Featuring

**Gail Wilson & the City Swing Band** 

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Phoenix PO Box 31699 SF, CA 94131-0699

Tickets available:

Daddy's **Image Leather** Mr S Leathers **Worn Out West** LeatherMasters(SanJose)



Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, left, and Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete, right, congratulate winner Keith Folger who received 99% of the available points to become Mama's Leather Man 2003 last Wednesday, June 18 at the

# **Pride and Leather**

### A marriage made in heaven

by Mister Marcus

t is debatable as to which members of the greater LGBT communities have more fer-vor for their show of "pride." The leather community may still be looked down upon by many, but within that particular group, there is a fierce determination to uphold all the traditional values that have been espoused over decades. There are, of course, bad apples to be found in many groups, but for Leather

the most part, integrity, allegiance, a full sense of brotherhood and sisterhood still prevail in the "leather nation," "the tribe," or whatever nomenclature you wish to use. At least in San Francisco, the catalyst for the many services our

city enjoys has been the leather community. One need only to look at the outstanding job done by the AIDS Emergency Fund, Positive Resources, the Inter-Club Fund and the Forum of San Francisco, to mention only a few. The clubs that exist today, including the Bears of San Francisco, are more likely to stage beer busts and other fundraising ac-

that is financially strapped.

This coming Sunday,
the leather contingent
will no doubt be the

largest in the entire parade. Like last year, our own Grand Marshal — Sal Hopkins — will lead the contingent of

leather people fol-lowed by the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar men. So with all the celebrating and the peripheral hoopla, the leather zone in the Civic Center will be

evident for all to see.

The leather contingent will assemble at 0900 on Beale Street between Market and Mission, and is number 44 in the line-up. If you have any questions, email to: dad-dyxix@hotmail.com or click on www.hotboots.com/pride.html.

#### Mama's man at the **Loading Dock**

Loading Dock

Leather sashes and titles were doled out again since last we met on these pages. On Wednesday night, a big crowd of the faithful converged on the Loading Dock for the Mama's Leather Man 2003 contest. It was a pleasure for me to MC a contest for a change under the guidance of Ray Tilton. There was only one contestant for the title, Keith Folger, and he had to get 99 percent of the available points to win the title. With pre-judging, speech, question onstage and a physique appearance, Mr. Folger managed to make the Mr. Folger managed to make the grade and was "patched" Mama's Leather Man 2003.

Folger is the first to be in the line-up for Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 taking place here on Saturday, September 27, the night

next page

#### EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 26

Armistead, Maupin will be at Under One Roof (549 Castro Street) from 1600 to 1800 signing the new Tales of the City merchandise and books. Actress Laura Linney (who portrayed Mary Ann Singleton

in the mini-series will also be there!
"Live Wrestling" matches at the Powerhouse
Bar tonight around 2100. Get into the swing of the hot sweat and body contact sports here. Big

Black and Blue Friday, June 27
The Leather/Uniform Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building is presented by the Phoenix Uniform Club tonight from 2000 to 2400. Tickets are \$50 advance/\$60 at the door if available. For more info, click on www.sfphoenixuniformplub.com.

Pink Saturday, June 28

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location with doors open from 2000-2300. \$15 BYOB. Call 673-0452 or click on www.the15asso-

ciation.org.
5th Annual Pride Brunch at the Ramada Plaza
Hotel (8th & Market) with a reception beginning at
1100. Meet the parade marshals with a \$75 dona-

Palm Springs Leather Sir/boy competition at the Barracks Bar in Cathedral City. Kick-off on Friday, contest on Saturday, and victory party on Sunday. Click on www.thebarracksbar.com.

Pride Sunday, June 29

Pride Sunday, June 29

The Big One! The Gay Pride Parade kicks off with The SF Women's Motorcycle Contingent, followed by Mikes on Bikes and hundreds of thousands of people celebrating the lifestyle of the LGBTQ communities. The parade starts at Market and Beale at 10 a.m. (note that the parade starts half an hour earlier this year!) and proceeds west on Market Street to Market and Eighth St. At Market and Eighth can be found one of the entrances to the Celebration Site. Check out the Leather Zone in the Civic Center and great entertainment all day. Need more info: click on www.sfpride.org

July 4th Weekend

Fillmore Street Fair from Eddy to Jackson both days with lots of jazz and lots of hot leather people. One of the best non-leather street fairs in The City. "Stars & Stripes Weekend" in Los Angeles to celebrate Boy Pride, presented by Mr. Los Angeles Leather Stephen Blackwell.

# **Pride at The Cinch**

# Polk Street will be hopping at 'Tricky'

by Sweet Lips

ell, you had better go to the restaurant Welcome Home on Castro Street, as our favorite decorator — Empress Bella — has completely re-modeled it and also has a new fabulous menu that shouldn't be missed. You have done a great job, Empress, so I'll say it again: Welcome Home,

Oh, and before I forget (which I never do, even at 80!), Club Rendez-Vous has a new cocktail hour on week-day afternoons. **Cocktail Hour** 

It's now 3-7 p.m.

Mon.-Thu., with the handsome
Rachel (aka Richard) doing the

pouring honors.

Some great old friends —
Gardner and Edward — were up
from Palm Springs, and looking
great! The climate down there does wonders for people in their prime! Anyway, they said Empress José is now driving a Cadillac conyest blow driving a Cadmac Con-vertible! Even at night! So people pull to the side of the road when they see her coming! Yes, for those who keep tabs, the popular Marlow is still work-

ing weekends at Uncle Bert's Bar on 18th St. near Castro, so drop on in and see him sometime.

Another of my favorites, Ms.
Cowgirl Ronnie Lynn, is still
working the 6 a.m.-Noon shift at
The Cinch, so you early birds drop
in and share stories and have a nip

Of course it's Pride Weekend, and on Sunday night after the parade and celebration, from 3 p.m. till closing, The Cinch will be packed with youngsters! A whole new crowd has moved

in and practically taken over the bar on certain

nights, and they have lots of energy! So be prepared to get hammered (and maybe later nailed) when Lucy Borden (www.lucyborden.com) hosts "Tricky!" at The Cinch. They're going to have some far-out DJs, including the popular duo Adrian and The Myspopular duo Adman and The Mys-terious D, who always dress in outlandish clothes and have multi-colored hair, and they play the most outrageous music which they describe as "eurotrash meets electroclash," whatever that means!
They'll be having drink spe-



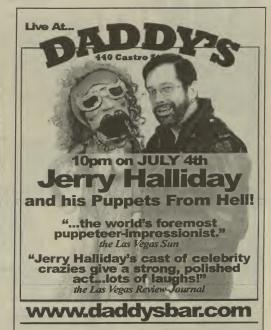
Lucy Borden hosts Tricky at The Cinch this coming Pride Sunday.

cials all day at "Tricky," a shot bar, a hot buns contest, something called "The Great Hook-Up Game," and a group of Lucy's Go-Go Boys. The cover charge is \$8 (\$5 with flyer). The Cinch is located at 1723 Polk St.

Meanwhile, other changes continue on Polk St. The Lush Lounge folks are already starting to re-

tinue on Poix St. The Lush Lounge folks are already starting to re-model the old Reflections Bar, and the new space is to be another piano bar, which will be great! Last but not least, the Gangway

bar on Larkin St. still gets a very interesting crowd of people, so drop in and say hi!





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#### **Mister Marcus**

previous page

before the Folsom Street Fair.

#### From Toronto to Sacramento

In Toronto, Canada on Satur-In Toronto, Canada on Saturday, June 21, only two boys and no sirs stepped forward to vie for the East Canada Leather Sir/boy titles. The Black Eagle was the scene of the triumph of boy Sebastian from Montreal.

In Sacramento, the Sacramento Leather Sir/boy competition was also on Saturday night, June 21. A big crowd showed up at the Bolt Bar for the competition which garnered two Sir contestants and these box contestants and these box. tants and three boy contestants. When all the points were tallied,

Brian Williams was named Sacramento Leather Sir 2003 and boy Arturo Crespo was chosen Sacramento Leather boy 2003. They advance to compete in the Northern California Leather Sirchov convention. Sir/boy competition, August 1-3 in Guerneville.

Oh there's more, much more,

Oh there's more, much more, coming your way so the summer months promise to bring out a whole new crop of leather title holders, male and female. Stay tuned here, and be sure to get on your computer and click on www.LeatherPage.com for leather news from columnists from all over the world. over the world.

And hey, did you notice the highy mobile leather community on the inaugural ride of the BART trains to SFO? It's about time! ▼



International Mr. Leather John Pendal (also Mr. Hoist Leather/London) will take the vows in London on Thursday, June 26 for domestic partnership as sanctified by British Law.

## Early music

**■** page 78

templation, it provides almost 70 minutes of unalloyed pleasure.



per strumenti diversi (Dorian) While Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is a household name, his reputation derives from an immense body of skillfully crafted compositions. He wrote no fewer than 220 violin concertos, plus others for flute, recorder, oboe, and bassoon.

Musica Pacifica draws its members from the world-class Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Directors Judith Linsenberg and Elizabeth Blumenstock are estab-

lished virtuosi. Blumenstock is a insted virtuosi. Butmenstock is a sought-after baroque violinists, with a tone consistently round and sweet, while Linsenberg plays recorder with extraordinary speed and wealth of nuance. Add in Gonzalo X. Ruiz on obee, Marilyn Boenau on bassoon, openly gay David Morris on cello, Michael Eagan on archlute, and Charles Sherman on harpsichord, and you have seven musicians who could conceivably sustain solo careers if personal inclination and 21st-century marketplace economics were sufficiently realigned.

This disc will enhance Musica

This disc will enflatic whose Pacifica's reputation. Each instru-mentalist shines in exposed pas-sages, exhibiting rhythmic vitality and a variety of shading that deepen appreciation for Vivaldi's extraordinary melodic freshness. Because the composer seems to have considered the baroque flute and alto recorder interchangeable, the ensemble offers several flute concertos performed on recorder. Marvelous playing, highly recom-

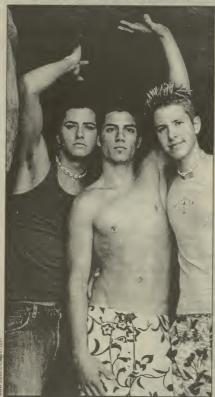
Teatro Imaginario - Scarlatti Sonatas (Vgo Recordings, Inc.) This auspicious debut recording of Domenico Scarlatti's (1685-



1757) amazing harpsichord sonatas certainly causes one to sit up and take notice. Scarlatti com-posed over 500 sonatas, only 73 of which were published at the time of his death.

Bay Area harpsichordist Patri-cia Matthews views the sonatas as strikingly modern, with sudden harmonic shifts and imbalances that create an extraordinary tension. Her harpsichord, built by John Phillips after 18th-century Florentine originals, is either a huge instrument on the order of Wanda Landowska's giants, or recorded so closely as to add a somewhat aggressive aspect to Scarlatti's writing. The results are simultaneously striking and up-setting





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#### **PARTING GLANCES**

J-Church 4:45pm On Wednes 5/28
We stared; never said hello. You retrieved to organizer; I was struck by your intense eyes. Me: black cap, shorts, backpack, sunburnt, You: dark grey suit, palm pilot. Coffee? 

72620

Jeff Eagle Tavern 3/26 Looking 4 Jeff my one time partner in fighting crime. Enjoyed meeting you. Have thought of you often. You left last-ing impressing. B. 

272621

You Looked At Me At Gas-Station In Hercules, June 4. I am tall Black cute guy. You, White cute guy. Bring 2 coffee & donut. I wish to meet you, but no time Write me soon! @ 72638

Friday 6/6 At 24hr Van Ness After a workout an "Angel" met a "Saint", but didn't ask for your number Hope you come by Friday again. Would love to play. \$\infty\$ 72639

#### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Muscular Italian Amer Seeks Asian Works out 4 days/week, cultured, passion, ate, honest 44yrs wishes to date on regular basis, a smooth, musc/toned Asian, poss. longterm relationship. Pls be serious, honest, stable. No games/flakes. @ 72622

1 Am 5'5", Asian, 205lbs, 34, Friendly Seeking chubs-cubs, bears and chasers in the Bay Area for Itr or friendship. You must be 250lbs, cute, handsome, nice, and chubby. Please do, and thanks. 22 72623

Looking For A Man To Love!! I am Italian, 5'11", 180, HIV-, looking to share my life with that special man. You are 45-60 looking for the same thing. Se-rious only. Let's meet. \$\top 72624

Useless, Old, Ugly, And Broke. But Really good in bed. (What's more important)? Horny, healthy, clean senior (68y) G.W. top needs for bi w. masculine bottom. 

2 72625

GWM 39, 6', 160, 41c, 30w, Buzzed Silver, bright blues, heart warming emile Silver, bright blues, heart warming smile, healthy HIV+, aggressively passive, unged good looks, bright; charming and creative with extraordinary domestic abilities ISO an older, jutzy, muturing, strong, handsome man for a live in, life ong, passin filled relationship of majestic proportions... I am into red wine, great grays, old wooden saliboats and slow comfortable mem... Wanna be a hero..? © 72640

CATEGORY

Couples 
Others

Parting Glances 
Seeking Relationship 
Seeking Adventure 
Lesbian 
Fetishes

Number of Issues

WM 27, 5'10", 145lbs Smooth Slim Brn It brn seeks WL men, hairy, muscu-lar, bearded, moustache, masculine, top for rough housing, fast pounding fun, out-doors, cars, talk, etc. ☎ 72641

Sweet Husky Hot Huggable GWM, HIV-, 40's, 5'9", s&p/blue. ISO GWM or GHM, HIV- 38-50, enjoys dining out, music, massage, cuddling for friend-ship or possible Itr. ♀ 72642

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11",175lbs
seek swell-bullt bottom with nice round
ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. 272652

#### SEEKING **ADVENTURE**

Batter Up!!
WM 38 5'10", 190lb. blond/blue muscu lar guy seeks field club dates for Giants games. Zagat-rated meal before or after is a plus- call anytime. 

272626

Big Chubby Men
Top Bi Bear, 43, 5'9", 220, beard, hairy, likes big chubby men 30+, 225lbs+, for lunchtime/daytime meetings. Am French p/a, Greek active, HIV-. Also like jo, being watched. 

2 72627

Need Experienced Butt Fucker Goodlooking who curious w/virgin hole seeks w/a smooth clean shaven to pound me w/your cock turn me totally queer make me your bitch whore serious only. \$\mathbf{2}\$ 72628

Down On Your Knees
Look me in the eyes whole I stick my nice
cut dick in your face. Dominant verbal guy
44 with lean build wants another tight
lean bodied submissive guy 18 to 40's for
fun role play. S 72629

Slim Smooth Group Cock Wanted This 6'1", 190lb, German, Italian, W/M is seeking a group of smooth, slender, hung guys to take turns fucking me. \$\sigma\$ 72630

Black/White XXX-Rated Fun GWM 49 masculine goodlooking hung and very sexual seeks GBM for nude beaches, camping, outdoor sex and baths. Me fit, healthy, total top and shaved. We are both very uninhibited. 120 72631

East Bay Gay Master Seeks straight slaves. I'll give you what your wife/girlfriend wont. Novices wel-come. Your limits respected. Discreet, sage and versatile. 

72632

Party, Party! Let's Get Together and party. I kick back- hung "9". I give oral service, 69, watch video's j.o. If hung a plus. Call me. @ 72647

Handsome Muscular Asian GAM, 38, 5'10", 175lb, masculine, HIV negative (u be too) New to SF. Looking for friendship or more with creative, intel-ligent, mature, passionate man. 22 72633

GA Seeking GWM

38 years old GA looking for GM to service. I'm HIV- looking doesn't matter. You have to be you. © 72634

European Guys Wanted...
I'm looking for guys from France, Italy,
Spain, Germany and other European
countries for fun, J.o. see video's, etc. 12
72643

48 Gym HIV pos Smoker 6'2" 200lbs Seeks gym professional 50-70 smoker HIV pos with graying hair and moustache balding, uncut well endowed and very hairy for sex and good times. 

↑ 72644

Hot Brazilian Guys Wanted!
I'm looking for Brazilian guys who are hung "8", 9 or 10 or more for j.o.to watch video's, oral work, sex, and fun. \$\omega\$ 72645

• Expert Rimming For Hours• Really! GWM, late 30's, athletic, w/ well trained tongue! Your cock can be handled as well. Couples welcome. No reciprocation. Age, tooks, unimportant. Be clean. 

☑ 72646

Hispanic Lover Man (Oh, where can you be?) Hispanic guys hung "8", 9, or 10, wanted for j.o., 69, or sex to watch video's, oral service, fun, etc. 272648

Straight White Men!
Straight guys, bi-curious, or straight-looking say guys wanted for fun, j.o, watch
video's, oral work, if hung a plus. \$\omega\$
72649

Novice Curious Nudist?
Preferably but not mandatory, hairy and hung for intense jo, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral to kut mostly jo. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, tits, shaved parts or anal. Long partying sceres encouraged. Like to explore being made with another man with the pressure of personning in an analor manner. © 726-74

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I'm Seeking A Guy With Huge Nipples
I'm muscular, work-out 4 days/ week
wanting to satisfy your huge protruding
thick nipples. I guarantee my mouth will
satisfy you. Pls be serious and have huge
nipples. 

72635

Still Seeking Turd Master 24/7 Please respond. Thank you! \$\textit{27} 2650

Dirty-Minded Old Men
I'm a WM, 67, 1551bs, dik hr, 47yo. I
enjoy servicing older/senior men who have
ranchly-senting crusches. & butts. I'm
enjoy servicing older/senior men who have
ranchly-senting crusches. Souts. Scall
Scall Sed in equiloring cutch cheese,
soris, scall sed in equiloring cutch cheese,
Soris, scall sed in equiloring cutch cheese,
Solis, B&B, pain or gay scenes. Sol
7,2636

72636

Sexy Showoff Into Fetishwear
Hot GWM with great body ISO into wearing sexy fetishwear. I have a great collection and wild imagination. Looking for hot
guys into spandex, leather g-strings and
more! \$\omega\$ 72637

Stroking For Hours
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy,
intense, j/o, dirly talk, cock worship.
Drinking/parting buddy desired. Some
oral OK. Your place, pm only. Not into
toys, videos, groups or anal. Long partying scenes only. 
22 72653

IS OS erious Nipple Workout Buddy
48 yr old GWM, Stocky, 220 #, Brn/Brn,
Salt & Pepper, Goatee, Tats, Pierrings,
Smoker. I'm a serious nip pig with huge
reert nipples 150 dominate, super nip pig
for workout sessions with growth in mind.
Serious only! Smokers A + Please call 
72655

Foot Bottom Needs Big Feet Looking for Men who likes to have those Feet worshiped. I like big masculine smelly feet. No reciprocation , very dis-creet. @ 72656

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72658

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GWM seeks road cycle touring buddy for
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dates and nude retreats. Also
blike up to Russian River and Rancho Cicada for nude sun bathing. 
22 72651

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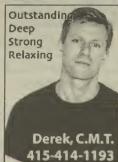


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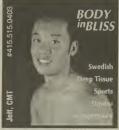
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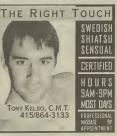
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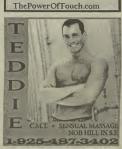
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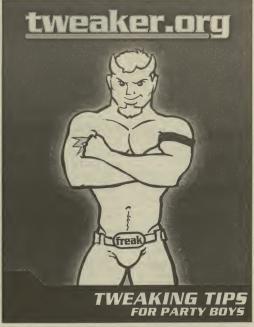
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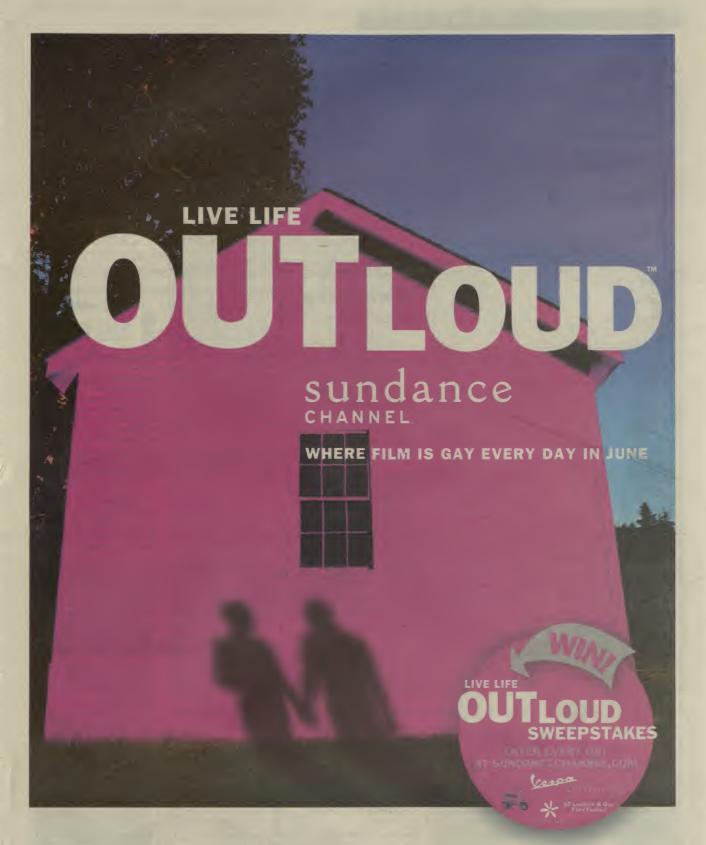
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